



TREAT YOURSELF
TO SOME CANDY
ON HALLOWEEN!
Page 2



ONLY SKIN DEEP:
TINDER TAPS AN
AGE-OLD TRUTH
Page 32

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, October 31, 2014



Pennsylvania State Police Troopers walk along Route 191 after searching the woods in Henryville, Pa, during the manhunt for suspected killer Eric Frein.
(AP Photo /Butch Comegys)

Police: Man Wanted In Trooper Ambush Captured

MICHAEL RUBINKAM

Associated Press

BLOOMING GROVE, Pennsylvania (AP) — A survivalist accused of ambushing two Pennsylvania state troopers, killing one and seriously wounding the other, was captured on Thursday by U.S. marshals in an abandoned airplane han-

gar, ending a seven-week manhunt that had rattled the nerves of area residents, authorities said. The apparently quiet take-down of Eric Frein ended weeks of tension and turmoil in the area, as authorities at times closed schools, canceled outdoor events and blockaded roads to

pursue him. Residents grew weary of hearing helicopters overhead, while small businesses suffered mounting losses and town supervisors canceled a popular Halloween parade. State police confirmed Frein was taken into custody Thursday but released

no details. Two law enforcement officials said Frein was captured in the hangar. They weren't authorized to discuss the circumstances of Frein's arrest and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity. A federal law enforcement official in Washington said

Frein was armed when he was captured.

Frein is charged with opening fire outside the Blooming Grove barracks on Sept. 12, killing Cpl. Bryon Dickson and seriously wounding another trooper.

Continued on Page 4

***Happy Halloween:
No trick-or-treaters? Buy candy anyway!***

BETH J. HARPAZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Stewart and his wife will be home with the lights on Halloween night, waiting for trick-or-treaters. But like a lot of folks who stock up on candy, they'll probably end up eating it themselves.

"My wife and I buy candy every year, knowing that trick-or-treaters won't come to see us," said Stewart, an artist in Homewood, Alabama. That's why they buy the treats they like, not necessarily what they think kids will like: "Nothing is wasted. If we plan well,

band insisted the location wouldn't deter locals.

"I purchased multiple bags of goodies and positioned a welcoming jack-o'-lantern in the front window," she recalled. And who came? "Not a soul. Not a single solitary soul ... I even checked to make sure the doorbell worked. Twice."

Her husband ate the candy, and each year since, he has convinced her that "this might be the year." Some folks think fewer kids go door to door these days, with more organized parties and programs instead. "Kids do their trick-or-treating at school now because

moved from her childhood trick-or-treating, but she thinks the practice "is losing its appeal. People are so worried about can you trust who your child is getting candy from. They're going trick-or-treating more in children's museums, churches and malls instead."

She goes home Halloween night to help her mom answer the door, but they typically only get about 20 kids. So mom buys candy the family likes — Snickers and Reese's Pieces, rather than fruity or fizzy sweets — and they watch a horror movie at evening's end.



This photo shows “Fun Size” and “Mini” candies in New York.

(AP Photo/Dan Goodman)

there's usually enough to last us 'til Christmas." This little game of self-deception plays out each year in buildings where apartment-dwellers wait in vain for door knocks and on suburban side streets and country roads where kids don't wander. "We were bummed out the first few times," said Stewart, "until we realized, 'Hey this is a bonus. We can buy all the candy we want and eat it and it's not our fault!'"

When Paula Werne moved to a rural stretch in Ferdinand, Indiana, 32 years ago with her farmer husband Gary, "I was skeptical we'd have any trick-or-treaters." But her hus-

of safety reasons or fear of drunk drivers," said Jason Varden, who works for an online videogame company Gazillion and lives with his wife in Milpitas, California. "It goes into the helicopter mom thing of 'We're not going to let our kids go up to strangers.'"

The trend hasn't stopped him from buying the 200-plus-size bags of goodies from Target. "It's all for the children!" he insisted. "But we bought Kit Kats and Snickers — candy we knew we would eat if we had to."

Bryanna Johns, 20, a student at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond isn't that far re-

while finishing the leftovers. Monique Lewis also has fond memories of trick-or-treating as a kid in Arlington, Virginia. But as an adult living in three different apartments, she's never had a trick-or-treater. "First year in, I was so excited because I was certain that I would be flooded. By the time 10 p.m. had rolled around, I was standing in the hallway with my door open, frantically searching for the missing treaters," said Lewis, a marketing consultant now living in Manhattan.

Each time she moved, she kept buying candy, thinking "every building is different." □

Not so sweet: Chocolate prices are set to be scary

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — That bowl of chocolates for ninjas and ghosts won't cost you more this Halloween. Picking the perfect sweet for your Valentine could. The cost of ingredients in chocolate bars is rising, and the nation's biggest candy makers have already warned of price hikes next year. And it's not just costs that are pushing up prices. A growing sweet tooth around the world means more demand for chocolate. Here are the global trends putting pressure on the confection:

PRICIER INGREDIENTS: Hershey and Mars, which together account for about two-thirds of U.S. chocolate sales, are hiking prices. Hershey cited the rising cost of cocoa, dairy and nuts when it announced an 8 percent increase in the average wholesale price of its candy this summer. Those higher costs weighed on the chocolate maker's most recent earnings, which fell 4 percent. Hershey CEO, John Bilbrey, said in an interview with CNBC earlier this month that shoppers wouldn't see a price increase this year because his company negotiated prices for its holiday items well in advance. However, consumers would notice an impact next year.

GLOBAL SWEET TOOTH: People in the developing economies of Asia and Latin America are acquiring a taste for chocolate. While North America and Western Europe still account for more than half of global chocolate sales, demand is growing faster in emerging markets. That's raising concerns that demand for cocoa beans, the key ingredient in chocolate bars, will outstrip supply. Chocolate sales in Asia are forecast to grow by 23 percent over the next five years and by almost 31 percent in Latin America, according to London-based research firm Euromonitor International. That compares with growth of 8.3 percent in North America and 4.7 percent in Western Europe over the same period. Those forecasts helped push the price of cocoa beans as high as \$3,371 a ton in September, the highest level since March 2011. The price has since fallen back to \$2,923 a ton, but it is still 23 percent higher than it was two years ago.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS: West Africa is the world's biggest cocoa producing region and accounts for about two-thirds of the global crop. Unlike large, modern farms in the U.S. and other developed economies, about 80 to 90 percent of the world's cocoa crop comes from small, family-run operations, according to the World Cocoa Foundation, a trade organization. The small-scale production makes it more challenging to introduce modern farming techniques that boost productivity from season-to-season to faster match demand.

FOOD HIKES: Chocolate-covered bacon, anyone? It might be a hit to more than just your waistline. Bacon prices have climbed 7 percent this year after a fatal virus swept through the nation's pig herds. Coffee prices jumped after a drought in Brazil damaged the crop. Milk prices have also risen. The retail price of chocolate has climbed to an average of \$5.93 a pound in 2014 from \$4.92 five years ago, according to estimates from the National Confectioners Association, an industry group that represents candy and chocolate makers. In total, Americans will spend about \$1.5 billion this Halloween filling bowls with chocolate, according to the NCA. That makes the last day of October the industry's most important holiday for sales — ahead of Easter, Christmas and even Valentine's Day. □

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Obama campaigns in Maine, avoids spat on Ebola quarantine

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

PORTRLAND, Maine (AP) —

President Barack Obama sought to mobilize Democratic voters Thursday in the race for governor in Maine while keeping his distance from the state's bubbling controversy over its Ebola quarantine policies and the nurse who has defied them.

Ebola has emerged as a hot-button issue in the Nov. 4 midterm elections, with Republicans criticizing the Obama administration for what they characterize as a disorganized response to the appearance of the virus in the U.S. Four people have been diagnosed with Ebola in the country, and one has died.

The elections feature races for governor in 36 states, although those contests have been overshadowed by competitive congressional races.

The fight for control of the Senate is the biggest prize in the midterm elections, with Democrats struggling to fend off a Republican takeover. The Republicans need to pick up the six seats to take control of the Senate and they are widely expected to expand their majority in the House of Representatives. That would give them control of Congress for the two years Obama has left in office.

Obama, whose slumping approval has been a drag on Democrats in the fiercest congressional elections, has limited his campaign appearances mostly to races for governors in states where he remains popular. His appearance in Maine landed him in the epicenter of a debate between

the federal government and several states over how health care workers returning from Ebola-stricken nations should be monitored. The White House has pushed back against overly restrictive measures, including proposals for travel bans or isolation measures adopted by some states. Obama, who has been praising health care workers who have volunteered to fight Ebola in West Africa, had no plans to visit with Kaci Hickox, the nurse who worked with Ebola victims in Sierra Leone and is now challenging Maine's requirement that she isolate herself for 21 days.

Hickox returned to the U.S. last week but has shown no symptoms of the disease. She has been under what the state has called a voluntary quarantine in remote northern Maine, but on Thursday she went on a bike ride with her boyfriend. Obama has urged states to consider how their policies will affect the willingness of other doctors and nurses to volunteer for Ebola work in the afflicted nations of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

Democrats in Maine hoped the visit by Obama so close to Election Day would help put six-term congressman Mike Michaud over the top in his neck-and-neck race against Republican Gov. Paul LePage.

LePage had defended his state's Ebola policies. He said Thursday that negotiations with Hickox's lawyers to discuss a scaled-down quarantine had gone nowhere, and that he was prepared to use the full extent of his authority to protect the public. □



President Barack Obama speaks during a campaign rally for gubernatorial candidate Rep. Mike Michaud, D-Maine, on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014, in Portland, Maine.

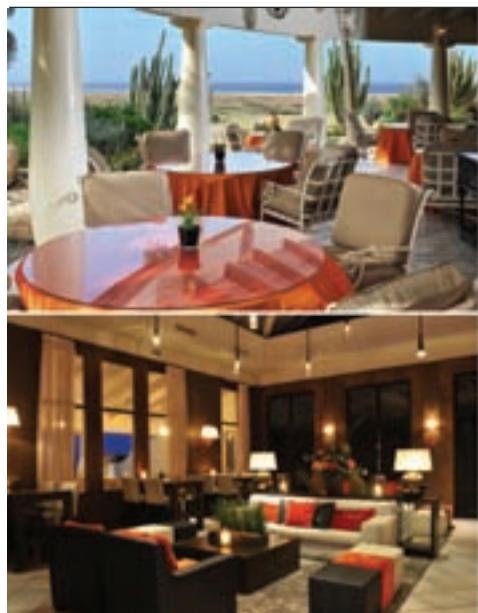
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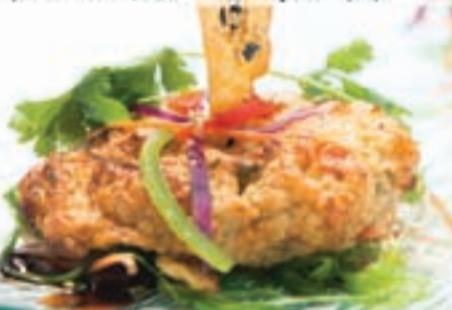
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Police: Man Wanted In Trooper Ambush Captured

Continued from front

Police said they linked him to the ambush after a man walking his dog discovered his partly submerged SUV three days later in a swamp a few miles (kilometers) from the shooting scene. Inside, investigators found shell casings matching those found at barracks as well as Frein's driver's license, camouflage face paint, two empty rifle cases and military gear.

Officials, saying Frein was armed and extremely dangerous, had closed schools and urged residents to be alert and cautious. Using dogs, thermal imaging technology and other tools, law enforcement officials combed miles (kilometers) of forest as they hunted for Frein, whom they called an experienced survivalist at home in the woods.

They pursued countless tips and closed in on an area around Frein's parents' home in Canadensis after he used his cellphone to try contacting them and the signal was traced to a location about 3 miles (almost 5 kilometers) away. At times police ordered nearby residents to stay inside or prevented them from returning home.

Trackers found items they believe Frein hid or abandoned in the woods — including soiled diapers, empty packs of Serbian cigarettes, an AK-47-style assault rifle and ammunition and two pipe bombs that were functional and capable of causing significant damage. They also discovered a journal, allegedly kept by Frein and found in a bag of trash at a hastily abandoned campsite, that offered a chilling account of the am-



A Pennsylvania State Police Trooper patrols the cemetery at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Swiftwater, Pa., during the ongoing search for suspected killer Eric Frein. Authorities said Frein was captured on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014, by U.S. marshals in an abandoned airplane hangar, ending a seven-week manhunt.

bush and his subsequent escape into the woods. The journal's author de-

scribed Dickson as falling "still and quiet" after being shot twice. Police spotted a man they believed to be Frein at several points during the manhunt, but it was always from a distance, with the rugged terrain allowing him to keep them at bay. Police said he appeared to be treating the manhunt as a game.

Frein had expressed anti-law enforcement views online and to people who knew him. His criminal record appeared limited to a decade-old misdemeanor case involving items stolen from a World War II re-enactors event in upstate New York, for which he spent 109 days in jail. Police found a U.S. Army manual called "Sniper Training and Employment" in his bedroom at his par-

(AP Photo/Butch Comegys)

ents' house, and his father, a retired Army major, told authorities that his son is an excellent marksman who "doesn't miss," according to a police affidavit. Authorities believe he had been planning a confrontation with police for years, citing information they found on a computer used by him.

A man and a woman believed to be Frein's parents, reached separately by telephone on Thursday, declined to comment.

Frein belonged to a military re-enactors group, playing the part of a Serbian soldier. He had a small role in a 2007 movie about a concentration camp survivor and helped with props and historical references on a documentary about World War I. □

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Small plane crashes at Kansas airport, killing 4

ROXANA HEGEMAN

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kansas (AP) — A

airport Thursday, killing four people, injuring five others and igniting a fire that

Three of the dead were inside a flight simulator in the building when the plane

the pilot, Wichita Fire Chief Ronald Blackwell said.

Five others were injured in the crash, and one of those was in serious condition at a hospital, Blackwell said. Officials said only one person was on board the plane and that everyone who was in the building had been accounted for. Identities of the victims were not immediately released. "We understand that this is a

very difficult time, especially for folks who have family members who are working out here and they don't know," Wichita Fire Marshal Brad Crisp said.

The plane, identified as a twin-engine Beechcraft King Air, crashed into a building that FlightSafety International uses to train pilots to fly Cessna planes, company spokesman Steve Phillips said.



Wichita Fire Chief Ron Blackwell speaks with the media at Mid-Continent Airport in Wichita, Kan., Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014, shortly after a small plane crashed into a building there, killing several people including the pilot.

(AP Photo/The Wichita Eagle, Mike Hutchmacher)

small plane lost power after takeoff and crashed into a flight-training building while trying to return to a Kansas

sent up towering plumes of black smoke that could be seen for miles (kilometers) around Wichita.

crashed into it at the city's Mid-Continent Airport, and the fourth was found on the roof and is believed to be

Mexico governor: 3 US siblings found dead

C. SHERMAN

Associated Press

MATAMOROS, Mexico

(AP) — Three U.S. citizens missing for more than two weeks have been found shot to death in Mexico near the border city of Matamoros, and authorities are questioning a local police unit about possible involvement, the attorney general in northern Tamaulipas state said Thursday.

The father of the three, Pedro Alvarado, identified his children from photographs of the bodies showing tattoos. Attorney General

Ismail Quintanilla Acosta told Radio Formula.

Clothing found with the bodies also matched that of Erica Alvarado Rivera, 26, and brothers, Alex, 22, and Jose Angel, 21, who had been visiting their father in Mexico and disappeared Oct. 13 along with Jose Guadalupe Castaneda Benitez, Erica Alvarado's 32-year-old boyfriend.

Each was shot in the head and the bodies were burned, Quintanilla said, most likely from lying in the hot sun for so long. Parents of the siblings have

said witnesses reported they were seized by men dressed in police gear identifying themselves as "Hercules," a tactical security unit in the violent border city heavily racked by cartel infighting. Quintanilla said at a news conference Thursday that nine of the unit's 40 officers are being questioned.

"We will apply the full force of the law and zero tolerance," Gov. Egidio Torre Cantu said, lamenting the death of the four, even though their identities had yet to be confirmed by DNA.

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Early voting election results look good for Democrats

NATE COHN

© 2014 New York Times

Democratic efforts to turn out the young and non-white voters who sat out the 2010 midterm elections appear to be paying off in several Senate battleground states.

More than 20 percent of the nearly 3 million votes tabulated in Georgia, North Carolina, Colorado and Iowa have come from people who did not vote in the last midterm election, according to an analysis of early-voting data by The Upshot.

These voters who did not participate in 2010 are far more diverse and Democratic than the voters from four years ago. On average across these states, 39 percent are registered Democrats and 30 percent are registered Republicans. By comparison, registered Republicans outnumbered Democrats in these states by an average of 1 percentage point in 2010.

The turnout among black voters is particularly encouraging for Democrats, who need strong black turnout to compete in racially

polarized states like Georgia and North Carolina. In those two states, black voters so far represent 30 percent of the voters who did

catic votes to erase the Republicans' expected turnout advantage. It remains to be seen whether turnout among new voters

time on margins that aren't helpful to them when you consider the big picture," said Kirsten Kukowski, press secretary for the Republi-



Supporters of Sen. Kay Hagan (D-N.C.) outside of a polling place in Asheville, N.C., Oct. 28, 2014. Democratic efforts to turn out the young and nonwhite voters who sat out the 2010 midterm elections appear to be paying off in several Senate battleground states, including North Carolina.

(Mike Belleme/The New York Times)

not participate in 2010. By comparison, 24 percent of all those who voted in those states in 2010 were black. But so far, there have not been enough new Demo-

will continue at these rates. The Upshot's model, Leo, still gives the Republicans a 68 percent chance of taking the Senate.

"They are wasting their

can National Committee. "We will win Election Day." But the figures are still good news for Democrats. The early-voting surge gives them a chance to pull off upsets in crucial states, particularly if they continue coaxing new voters to the polls in the final week of the campaign.

"The numbers are surpassing our expectations and very encouraging across the board," said Guy Cecil, executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "If these rates continue, we will be on track to win."

The Upshot analysis was conducted by matching absentee and early voter data to voter history and registration files from the Colorado and Georgia secretaries of state and the North Carolina Board of Elections. Voter history

and registration data are imperfect; slight errors can arise from duplicates, unmatched voters, or imperfect state records. The Iowa figures were provided by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Republican National Committee.

Midterm turnout is vital for Democrats because more of their voters from presidential elections stay home during the midterms. Democrats would probably win Colorado, North Carolina, Iowa and Georgia - along with control of the Senate - if the electorate were as young, diverse and Democratic as it was in 2012 or is likely to be in 2016.

The figures are perhaps most promising for Democrats in Georgia, where the Democratic Senate candidate, Michelle Nunn, needs to get at least 50 percent of the vote on Nov. 4 to avoid a January runoff. She needs high turnout among black voters, who represented 28 percent of the electorate in 2010, but 30 percent of the electorate when President Barack Obama was on the ballot in 2012. So far, 32 percent of Georgia's early voters are black, including 36 percent of the voters who didn't participate in 2010.

Sen. Kay Hagan is receiving a similar boost in North Carolina. Of those who have voted so far, 47 percent have been registered Democrats and 32 percent are registered Republicans. Twenty-four percent of early voters are black. The figures are similar among the voters who did not vote in 2010.

This year, with Democratic turnout all but assured to be lower, making sure traditional Republican voters show up at the polls will get the GOP much of the way to victory.

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US Financial Front:**Strengthening US growth reflects help from Fed****M. CRUTSINGER**

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy powered its way to a solid annual growth rate of 3.5 percent from July through September, outpacing most of the developed world and appearing on track to extend its momentum through this year and beyond.

The result isn't a fluke.

It turns out the world's biggest economy did a lot of things right after the Great Recession that set it apart from other major nations. In the view of many economists, those key decisions, particularly by the Federal Reserve, appear to be paying off now.

An improving economy led the Fed on Wednesday to end its stimulative bond buying program. Launched during the 2008 financial crisis, it was an unprecedented and aggressive effort to revive a dormant economy by buying trillions in bonds to reduce long-term interest rates.

Doug Handler, chief U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight, credited the Fed and its bond purchases with helping pull the country out of the worst downturn since the 1930s.

"Its greatest impact was instilling confidence in consumers and the business community that Fed officials were determined to do everything they could to stimulate growth," Handler said. "To know you have the Fed pulling for you instills confidence."

Thursday's government report on the gross domestic product — the economy's total output of goods and services — added to evidence that the Fed's efforts have translated into robust job growth and a recovery that appears to be solidifying.

The third-quarter expansion was propelled by solid gains in business investment, exports and the biggest jump in military spending in five years. It followed

a 4.6 percent annualized expansion in the second quarter, which marked a dramatic turnaround from the first three months of the year, when a harsh winter depressed activity. Many economists say they're confident that the

current October-December quarter will be another solid one. They also project that full-year growth for 2015 will hit 3 percent, giving the economy the best annual performance since 2005, two years before the Great Recession began. □



Derrick Roberts, right, Chef De Cuisine at Gotham Steak restaurant at Fontainebleau Miami Beach, shakes hands with job seeker Robert Rouse after an interview during a job fair at the Fontainebleau in Miami Beach, Fla. The Commerce Department released solid third-quarter gross domestic product on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

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Supercute Living:

Crowds, cuteness overwhelm first Hello Kitty Con

SANDY COHEN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hello Kitty cuteness is taking over Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles as the city hosts the first Hello Kitty fan convention.

Hello Kitty Con is expected to draw some 25,000 fans over four days.

Long lines snaked through the sold-out event Thursday at the Geffen Contemporary at the Museum of Contemporary Art, where conventioneers could pose for photos with Hello Kitty, get permanently inked with her image, hear lectures about her popularity and shop for exclusive products created for the mouthless cat character's 40th birthday, which falls on Nov. 1.

"I grew up collecting Hello Kitty and being in love with her," explained 30-year-old Grisel Esquivel, who was having a Hello Kitty face etched onto her wrist.

Chicago tattoo artist Mario Desa created about 100 Hello Kitty-inspired designs for ink-friendly fans. Orga-

nizers expect that about 50 fans a day will receive free tattoos from the five artists at HK Ink.

Scores of fans came in costume, wearing Hello

Kitty dresses, cat ears and the character's trademark red bow. Among them was 23-year-old Ana Sanchez, who was decked out head-to-toe in Kitty attire,

from the whiskers painted on her face down to her printed Hello Kitty sneakers. "There's just something about this cat that I just love," she said, adding that

she is actually allergic to cats. Her dutiful boyfriend, who bought the couple's tickets, stood by her side with a camera hanging from his neck.

Photo possibilities abound: There are couture fashion creations inspired by Hello Kitty, an entire home outfitted in licensed products, and many vintage items, including the Hello Kitty coin purse issued in Japan in 1975 that launched her popularity.

For its first U.S. appearance, the tiny, vinyl purse is displayed with all the pomp of the Hope diamond. It sits atop a pile of blue velvet inside a glass case rimmed with red ropes, all alone in a room manned by security guards.

Lectures, panel discussions and hands-on craft workshops are offered throughout the convention, along with ample shopping opportunities. Companies such as Sephora and Spam created special products for Hello Kitty Con, including a \$450 crystal-encrusted makeup-brush set and Spam shaped like a Kitty face.

Another pop-up shop carries convention souvenirs and 40th anniversary limited-edition items, while a "Vintage Shoppe" offers authentic antique items, including a Hello Kitty plush doll that cost \$14.50 in 1976 and now sells for \$150.

Conventioneers are invited to play Hello Kitty-themed games in the Target arcade, where they can collect points redeemable for keepsake merchandise. The neighboring Japanese American National Museum is showing an associated exhibit, "Hello! Exploring the Supercute World of Hello Kitty," through April that features a breadth of Hello Kitty products as well as fine art interpretations of the character from 40 international artists.

Yuko Yamaguchi, Sanrio Co.'s lead Hello Kitty designer since 1980, provided the most priceless souvenirs: personalized sketches for fans.



Jessica Aguilar takes pictures of her nephew at the Hello Kitty Con, the first ever Hello Kitty fan convention, held at the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014, in Los Angeles. The convention was held to honor the character's 40th birthday.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)



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ELENA BECATOROS

DIAA HADID

Associated Press

SURUC, Turkey (AP) — A vanguard force of Iraqi peshmerga troops entered the embattled Syrian border town of Kobani from Turkey on Thursday, part of a larger group of 150 fighters that the Kurds hope will turn back an offensive by militants of the Islamic State group.

The deployment, accompanied by 50 members of the Free Syrian Army, was condemned by Syria's government as an act of Turkish aggression and a "blatant violation of Syrian sovereignty."

The first group of Kurdish fighters crossed into Syria following heavy overnight clashes as Islamic State extremists unsuccessfully tried to capture the frontier post, the only gateway in and out of the town.

Kobani is under attack by the militants from three sides despite weeks of airstrikes by a U.S.-led coalition.

Mustafa Bali, an activist based in the town, said the remaining troops will follow later in installments as a security precaution because the IS fighters were targeting the border area.

"The first 10 are now with the People's Protection Units and they include doctors and fighters and the rest are expected to enter in the coming hours at night," Bali told The Associated Press. The People's Protection Units, also known as the YPG, are the main force in predominantly Kurdish regions of northern Syria.

Other peshmerga forces were assembled in a facility on the outskirts of the Turkish border town of Suruc, about 12 kilometers (7½ miles) from the Syrian frontier.

The Kurds have high expectations for the mission of the peshmerga troops, despite their low numbers. They are hoping that some of the more advanced weaponry they carry with them can help break a stalemate with the extremists, who outnumber and

outgun the Kurds.

Activists say there are about 1,000 Syrian Kurdish fighters and more than 3,000 jihadis in the Kobani area. Most civilians fled in the first days of the IS onslaught.

The ability of the small force to turn the tide of battle will depend on the effectiveness of their weapons and the continued bombardment from the coalition.

The coalition has carried out more than 150 airstrikes against the militants in and around Kobani, killing hundreds of them and helping stall their advance. But Syrian Kurds have pleaded for advanced weapons to help them gain the upper hand.

The U.S. Central Command said there were 12 airstrikes in Syria, with 10 of those in the Kobani area since Wednesday. The coalition also is conducting airstrikes on IS positions in Iraq, where the group controls large parts of territory.

In the Syrian capital of Damascus, a political adviser to President Bashar Assad accused Ankara of trying to expand its influence in Syria by sending in anti-government forces.

"I see that Turkey is continuing in its role of aggression against Syria and its very dangerous role in the region," Bouthaina Shaaban said in an interview with the AP.

Shaaban suggested Turkey was trying to revive its dominant role during the Ottoman Empire and did not care about saving the Kurds.

The Foreign Ministry in Damascus called the action "a blatant violation of Syrian sovereignty and international law."

The statements underscored the acrimonious relations between once friendly neighbors. Turkey emerged early on as a main backer of the rebels trying to overthrow Assad, and even now has balked at joining the fight against the Islamic State militants in Syria before the U.S. commits to a plan that includes Assad's overthrow.



Sheep walk back dropped by Turkish armored vehicles guarding a group of Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga soldiers outside a staging area on the outskirts of Suruc, near the Turkey-Syria border, across from the Syrian town of Kobani, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014.

(AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

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Ukraine, Moscow clinch deal on Russian gas supply

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Moscow and Kiev on Thursday clinched a multi-billion dollar deal that will guarantee that Russian gas exports flow into Ukraine and beyond to the European Union throughout the winter despite their intense rivalry over the fighting in eastern Ukraine.

EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, whose offices mediated the talks for months, said the EU will also help cash-strapped Ukraine with the payments through aid and guarantees.

"There is now no reason for people in Europe to stay cold this winter," he said. Barroso added that he was "hopeful that the agreement can contribute to increase trust between Russia and Ukraine."

EU energy chief Guenther Oettinger said that "we can guarantee a security of supply over the winter," not only for Ukraine but also for the EU nations closest to the region that stood to suffer should the gas standoff have worsened.



EU Commissioner for Energy Guenther Oettinger, center, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak, left, and Ukrainian Energy Minister Yuriy Prodan shake hands after they signed an agreement that guarantees Russian gas will continue to flow to Ukraine and, by extension, parts of the EU this winter as EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, 2nd left back, Gazprom CEO Alexey Miller, left back, EU Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration Maros Sefcovic, 2nd right back, and Naftogaz CEO Andriy Kobolev look on, at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014.

(AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

A similar standoff in 2009 had caused serious disruptions in gas flowing from Russia into the EU and it was a prospect the bloc sought to avoid.

The agreement long hinged on the question whether Ukraine was in a

position to come up with the necessary cash to pay for the gas. "Yes, they are," a confident Oettinger said. Oettinger said the \$4.6 billion deal should extend through March.

"We can claim and pay for amounts that we need. That question has been totally settled," said Yuriy Prodan, Ukrainian Minister for Energy. "There will be no problems."

Under the deal, Ukraine would pay for its outstanding debt by making a \$1.45 billion deposit without delay, and \$1.65 billion by year's end. The final sum of debt would be determined through arbitration.

For new gas, Russia will only deliver after pre-payment and Ukraine intends to buy some \$1.5 billion by the end of December.

The EU said in a statement it had been "working intensively" with international institutions and Ukraine to secure funds to pay for gas delivery in the coming winter.

"Unprecedented levels of EU aid will be disbursed in a timely manner," it said. The deal only stretches through March and the difficulties of the talks were immediately evident when the Russians and Ukrainians started disagreeing on terms and prices of gas for next summer.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Petro Poroshenko. □

Amid Israeli protest; Sweden recognizes Palestinian state

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sweden on Thursday became the biggest Western European country to recognize a Palestinian state, prompting a strong protest from Israel, which swiftly withdrew its ambassador from Stockholm.

The move by Sweden's new left-leaning government reflects growing international impatience with Israel's nearly half-century control of the West Bank, east Jerusalem and its blockade of the Gaza Strip. It also comes during increased tensions between Arabs and Jews over Israel's plans to build 1,000 housing units in east Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman describing it as "a miserable decision that strengthens the extremist elements and Palestinian rejectionism."

Palestinians have met the criteria under international law for such recognition.

"There is a territory, a people and government," she told reporters in Stockholm, adding that Sweden was the 135th country in the world to recognize a Palestinian state.

It is the third Western European nation to do so, after Malta and Cyprus. Some Eastern European countries recognized a Palestinian state during the Cold War. Israel was quick to condemn Sweden's announcement, with Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman

describing it as "a miserable decision that strengthens the extremist elements and Palestinian rejectionism."

"It's a shame that the government of Sweden chose to take a declarative step that only causes harm," he added.

Paul Hirschson said Israel's ambassador to Sweden was being recalled for consultations but declined to say how long he would remain in Israel.

Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official, welcomed the move by Sweden, a European Union member, as "a principled and courageous decision."

"It is our hope that other EU member states and countries worldwide will follow Sweden's lead and recognize Palestine before the chances for a two-state solution are destroyed indefinitely," Ashrawi said.

Israel says Palestinians can gain independence only through peace negotiations, and that recognition of Palestine at the U.N. or by individual countries undermines the negotiating process. Palestinians say Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu isn't serious about the peace negotiations. □

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After Fukushima, Japan gets green boom - and glut

YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Like other Japanese who were banking on this country's sweeping move toward clean energy, Junichi Oba is angry. Oba, a consultant, had hoped to supplement his future retirement income in a guilt-free way and invested \$200,000 in a 50 kilowatt solar-panel facility, set up earlier this year in a former rice paddy near his home in southwestern Japan.

But Kyushu Electric Power Co., the utility to which he must sell his electricity, has recently placed on hold all new applications for getting on its grid. Four other utilities have made the same announcement and two more announced partial restrictions. The utilities say they can't accommodate the flood of newcomers to the green energy business, throwing in doubt the future of Japan's up-to-now aggressive strategy on renewable energy. Another challenge is that supplies of power from sources such as solar are not reliable enough or easily stored.

"Kyushu electric shock is spreading in a domino effect," said Oba. "It's like fraud on the national level, with utility companies and the government in cahoots with each other."

Traumatized by the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl and encouraged by the highest rates for renewable energy in the world, Japan has been undergoing a green boom. It's now rapidly turning into a fiasco as the cost proves prohibitive and utilities anticipate putting some nuclear reactors, shuttered since the March 2011 Fukushima disaster, back online. The unfolding green glut in

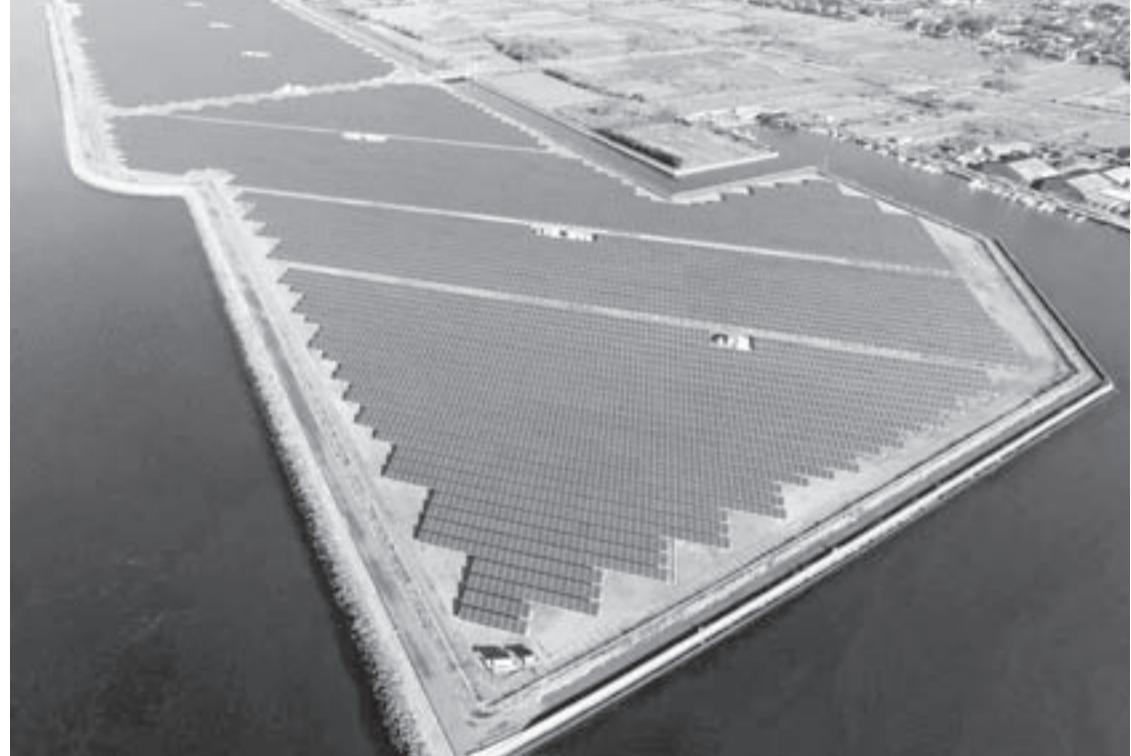
Japan echoes similar experiences in Germany and Spain.

The number of applications for solar facilities with Kyushu Electric jumped to 72,000 in March, about the same for the entire previous year. People were trying to beat the April 1 lowering of the government-set tariff that utilities pay renewable energy producers to 32 yen (30 cents) a kilowatt hour from 36 yen (34 cents). The regular cost of electricity in Japan is about 23 yen per kilowatt hour.

If all the planned solar panels in Japan were installed, their capacity would equal 8 percent of overall energy demand. At the 32 yen tariff, a whopping 3 trillion yen (\$30 billion) would be added to electricity bills.

Experts debating policy at a government committee are pushing for an immediate end to the guaranteed rates for solar power.

Oba is not alone in being worried his green energy income will evaporate. Most Japanese who invested in solar had hoped the higher rates for renewable energy would continue for 10 years or longer. Oba fears some green outfits may go bankrupt. Even individual families that put solar panels on their roofs to provide green electricity for their own homes could see the perks they had counted on disappear. Before the nuclear disaster set off by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, atomic power had provided about a third of Japan's energy needs. Resource-poor Japan imports almost all its oil and natural gas. With all 48 working nuclear reactors now idled, the costs of such imports have weighed heavily on the world's third largest economy. □



This aerial photo released by Softbank Corp. shows the Japanese telecommunications and Internet company's Tottori-Yonago Solar Park which started commercial operation on Feb. 1, 2014 in Yonago, Tottori Prefecture, western Japan.

(AP Photo/Softbank Corp.)

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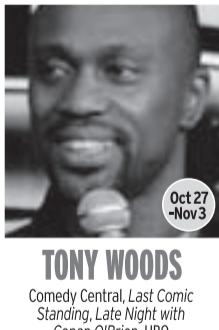
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Haiti hopes to woo back tourists with resorts

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

COTES-DE-FER, Haiti (AP) — Off this sleepy southern Haitian village, fishermen in weathered wooden boats slowly move across azure waters. Miles of picture-perfect sandy beaches slope gently, fringed by grasses and framed by mountains.

In any other Caribbean country, such a pristine stretch of shore would have been developed long ago. But in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, the tranquil Cotes-de-Fer area is mostly uninhabited, holding just a scattering of shacks lit by candles, with little to do apart from fishing or working the sunbaked soil.

Things may be changing radically, however. President Michel Martelly's administration wants to build Haiti's biggest tourism development here, hoping that foreign visitors can help spur an economic revival in the nation of 10 million, where most adults lack any kind of steady

work and survive on less than \$2 a day. So far there are only tentative signs of the hoped-for boom in Cotes-de-Fer. Dirt access roads have been widened with the help of

Taiwan and Venezuela and locals hope they will soon be paved. The government is refurbishing the fishing village and training tourist police as it tries to line up investors for a coun-

try enjoying a period of relative tranquility after years of turmoil.

"We know it's a huge task and it won't be easy, but this is one chance that Haiti cannot miss. We've been



A group of fishermen pull a wooden boat ashore on a rocky beach in the southern village of Cotes-de-Fer, Haiti. Haitian President Michel Martelly's administration is pursuing plans for Haiti's biggest tourism development ever in the poor coastal area and officials are trying to line up investors to help spur an economic revival. As the country enjoys a period of relative tranquility after years of turmoil, Haitian officials say they see tourism as key to economic development.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

at the bottom of the ladder for too long," Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe told The Associated Press as he visited Cotes-de-Fer. A master plan for the area promises tax-free investments for 15 years in a development that could eventually cover about 5,680 acres (2,299 hectares), with up to 20,000 hotel rooms and condos. The first phase would cost nearly \$48 million, with 1,266 rooms in four hotels and 1,133 tourist residences, an 18-hole golf course, and a beach club by 2017. A small airport would be built nearby.

Officials hope it will become Haiti's version of Punta Cana, a major resort town carved out of a fishing village in the neighboring Dominican Republic in the 1970s. Grupo Punta-Cana, which operates the Dominican resort, has assisted Haiti with developing its plans.

The \$266 million project would be the biggest ever in Haiti, which is recovering from a devastating 2010 earthquake that shattered the crowded capital, Port-au-Prince, and surrounding areas.

The broader tourism push includes development of the southern island of Ile-a-Vache. Plans there call for a resort with roughly 2,500 rooms and its own international airport. Dredging to accommodate supply ships is nearing completion, and the site for a future airport is being graded.

Haiti also has signed a memorandum of understanding with Carnival Corp. to develop a \$70 million cruise port on Ile de la Tortue, an island off the north coast long known as a departure point for smugglers. □

US rower robbed of food, passport near Haiti

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A U.S. man who recently rowed across the Atlantic Ocean to raise awareness about HIV testing was robbed on Thursday off Haiti's north coast, authorities said. The incident occurred when Victor Mooney began having trouble with his boat near the tiny Tortuga Island, according to a U.S. Coast Guard report.

Mooney, a Brooklyn native, was headed back to the U.S. from his trans-Atlantic journey but had diverted toward Haiti on advice

of his U.S. weather router, which warned a storm was coming and that he needed to seek shelter. The 48-year-old had completed the 3,000-mile (4,800 kilometer) journey in June on his fourth attempt, a journey to honor a brother who died of AIDS.

Mooney said he saw several boats approach on Thursday morning and that people aboard them began yelling at him in a language he did not understand as they tied his boat to theirs.

"It was like mosquitoes," Mooney said in a phone

interview. "One came, two came, three came and they surrounded my boat." Once he was towed to Tortuga Island, Mooney said a group of people ransacked his rowing vessel.

"They just took everything," he said.

Police agent Kenssley Derival said Mooney's food was stolen, along with his passport, which he said authorities have since recovered. Helping Mooney with translations from Creole to English was 33-year-old Emmanuel Milhomme, who lives on Tortuga Island but previously lived in Fort

Myers, Florida. He said he was in the area when he saw the commotion and noticed the U.S. flag on Mooney's boat and approached him.

"Where he came from, I don't know," Milhomme said. "It could have been worse." Mooney was staying at Milhomme's house until authorities arrived. It was not immediately clear exactly when Mooney would resume his trip back to the U.S. "It was a frightening situation," he said. "Thank God there's no bodily harm, but I want to go home." □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

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Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi Village Beach Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Divi Village Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to

guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Lawrence and Jeanne Bainer from Connecticut as Goodwill Ambassadors, and Carilyn Verhoorn from New Jersey as Distinguished Visitor! These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vaca-

tion destination. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Village Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, and because Aruba feels like a second home. The certificates were presented by Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority.□

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ORANJESTAD – The Association of Aruban Realtors, (AAR) together with Dot 1 Technologies have recently launched Aruba's most advanced, and complete multiple listing website www.realaruba.estate.

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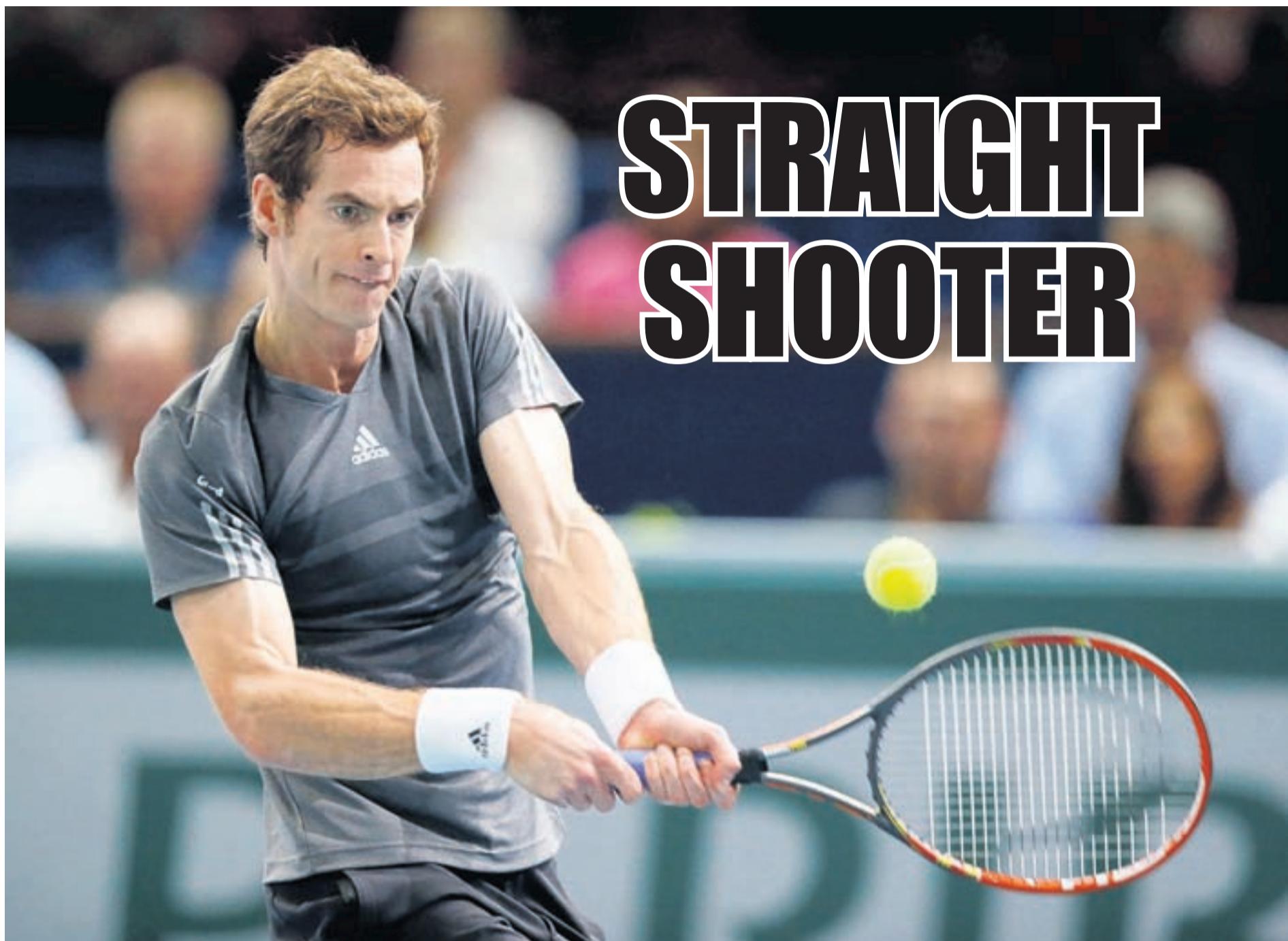
The website has been designed and developed by Dot 1 Technologies with the latest technologies and functionalities. Visitors to the website will experience a user friendly interface complete with an



easy to navigate "Map Search". A new tool using the latest in web technology to find properties simply by selecting an area on the map. This website is also optimized for viewing on smartphones and tablets, which makes the user experience on every device, a very

pleasant one. The launching of this website symbolizes the future of how to search for and find real estate on Aruba. The focus will be on local audiences, but specific tactics will be used to reach people abroad that are interested in buying or renting

properties on Aruba. The AAR together with Dot 1 Technologies would like to invite the entire Aruban community, valued visitors, and anyone interested in buying or renting property on Aruba to visit the website www.realaruba.estate. □

SPORTS**Aruba TODAY****STRAIGHT
SHOOTER**

Andy Murray of Britain, returns to Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during their third round match at the ATP World Tour Masters tennis tournament at Bercy stadium in Paris, France, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014. Murray won 6-3, 6-3.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

Murray Clinches ATP Finals Berth in Paris

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Andy Murray clinched a spot in the ATP Finals on Thursday after beating Grigor Dimitrov in straight sets at the Paris Masters and then sent a message to his critics by scribbling "bad year" on a courtside television camera.

Following a tumultuous year that saw him change coach and recover from a serious back injury, Murray booked his spot at the season-ending tournament in London by reaching the quarterfinals at the Palais Omnisports with a 6-3, 6-3 win over No. 9 seed Dimitrov.

Before leaving the court,

Murray signed "bad year" on a camera lens.

"It wasn't a jibe (at critics), it's a bit of fun," he said about his autograph. "I mean, people are going to ask me all the time why I've had such a poor year by my standards. You're allowed sometimes to say something in response to that. I don't tend to do that

often, but, look, it's been a hard year, a tough year, but it hasn't been a bad year."

Up next for Murray will be top-ranked Novak Djokovic, who withstood 12 aces before extending his unbeaten record against Gael Monfils to 11-0 with a 6-3, 7-6 (2) over the Frenchman

Second-seeded Roger Federer kept the pressure on Djokovic in their battle for the year-end No. 1 spot, easily beating French qualifier Lucas Pouille 6-4, 6-4 to set up a meeting with Milos Raonic.

Continued on page 19

Wall's Layup Helps Wizards Hold Off Magic, 105-98

Page 20

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Tom Pernice Jr. takes Schwab Champions Tour lead



Tom Lehman hits his drive at the first hole during the Pro-Am at the Charles Schwab Cup Championships Tour on the Cochise Course at Desert Mountain Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz.

(AP Photo/The Arizona Republic, Rob Schumacher)

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)

— Tom Pernice Jr. shot a 5-under 65 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead

over Bernhard Langer and three others in the Champions Tour's Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

The 55-year-old Pernice won the Principal Charity Classic in Iowa in June for his third career victory on

the 50-and-older tour. He rebounded from a bogey on the par-3 17th with a birdie on the par-5 18th on Desert Mountain's Cochise Course.

Langer clinched the Charles Schwab Cup points title last week in San Antonio, taking a lot of the drama out of the season-ending event. The 57-year-old German star has a tour-high five victories — two of them majors — and also has wrapped up the season money title with \$2,916,189.

"I got off to a really good start, made some putts on the front nine and played pretty solid," Langer said. "Four under on the front, that's a really good score. Then back side, the putter got cold, especially the last five holes or so. I had five really good chances, didn't make one of them, so that was disappointing the way I hit really good shots and

gave myself opportunities and just couldn't convert."

Jay Haas, Kenny Perry and Joe Durant matched Langer at 66. Haas won two weeks ago in North Carolina to become the 18th player to win a Champions Tour event at 60 or older.

"I think it's a pretty hard day out there, certainly not like it was a couple years ago," Haas said. "I believe two years ago the course was playing faster, so shorter, but the greens I thought were softer a couple years ago. We had a hard time stopping the ball around the hole today, for me anyway."

The top 30 on the money list qualified for the tournament.

Fred Couples, the winner last year at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco, had a 71. Tom Lehman also shot 71. He won the 2012 tournament at Desert Mountain.

NFL seeks to dismiss ex-players' painkillers lawsuit

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The National Football League on Thursday asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by former players who allege team officials gave them powerful painkillers and other drugs to keep them on the field without regard for their long-term health. The NFL's lawyer argued that the league is not responsible for the medical decisions of its 32 teams. The lawyer also said that the issue should be addressed by the players union, which negotiated a collective

bargaining agreement that covers player health.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup wondered about the union's role as well.

"There is a union and the union should be looking out for the players," Alsup said. The judge ordered the lawyers to contact the National Football League Players Association to determine its position on the lawsuit.

A spokesman for the NFLPA didn't respond to an email and phone inquiry Thursday.

Most of the one-hour hearing in San Francisco was taken up by debate over

whether the NFL or its individual clubs are responsible for the medical care of the players.

"It's the club that has the responsibility to retain the doctors," NFL attorney Dan Nash said.

The former players' attorney, Stephen Grygiel, countered that the NFL has a financial interest to keep players on the field and encouraged a free-wheeling drug distribution culture.

"The NFL knew full well these drugs were being provided," he said. "There was a pharma free-for-all." The judge didn't indicate

which way he would rule. He said he wanted to hear from the players union before making a decision on whether to toss out the lawsuit.

Several prominent former players have publicly joined the lawsuit, including Marcellus Wiley, Jim McMahon, Richard Dent, Keith Van Horne and Jeremy Newberry.

The lawsuit represents players who played as far back as 1968.

The former players say that NFL physicians and trainers routinely provided narcotics and other controlled

substances on game days to mask the pain. The lawsuit says many of the drugs were dispensed without prescriptions.

The former players argue that they were never warned about the dangers of the drugs they were given and only recently discovered the potential harm they face from ingesting so many painkillers. Among the drugs said to have been handed out were the painkillers Percodan, Percocet and Vicodin, anti-inflammatories such as Toradol, and sleep aids such as Ambien.

Murray clinches ATP finals berth in Paris

Continued from page 17

After missing last year's season-ending tournament following surgery on his back, the eighth-seeded Murray pushed hard to qualify for the indoor event for the seventh straight year, winning three titles over the past five weeks. Murray, who slipped from fourth in January to 12th in the rankings last month, reached the semifinals at the French Open then failed to defend its Wimbledon crown and had to wait until September to win his first title of the season at the Shenzhen Open in China. He split with coach Ivan Lendl in March and hired Amelie Mauresmo after Roland Garros.

"It could have been a lot worse," said Murray after contesting his 22nd match in five weeks. "Coming

back from surgery is not easy at all, and I learned that. The first few months of this year it was very difficult, and I had to dig deep at the end of this year in some ways to salvage the year, if you like."

But it's been a good year. Not been my best year, but I would've signed up for being in this position when I had the surgery last year, I think."

The Scot was in control throughout against Dimitrov, losing only two points on his first serve as he took a measure of revenge following his loss to the Bulgarian player in the quarterfinals at the All England club this year.

Federer's Davis Cup teammate Stan Wawrinka failed to serve out the match before losing a 6-7 (2), 7-5, 7-6 (3) to Kevin Anderson in a match lasting nearly three hours as the hard-hitting South-

African rallied to advance to the quarterfinals for the first time.

"I should have won," said the Swiss, who has been hampered by a virus

this week and coughed a lot during his press conference. □



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Gael Monfils of France after their third round match at the ATP World Tour Masters tennis tournament at Bercy stadium in Paris, France, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014. Djokovic will be up next for Andy Murray at the Paris tournament.

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Wall's layup helps Wizards hold off Magic, 105-98

KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) -- John Wall had 30 points and 12 assists, and the Washington Wizards held off a late surge to beat the Orlando Magic 105-98 on Thursday night.

Marcin Gortat added 20 points and 12 rebounds. All five starters scored in double figures as Washington earned its fifth straight victory over its division rival.

The Magic trailed by three at the half, only to be outscored 28-15 in the third quarter.

Orlando recovered in the fourth and rallied to trim what had been a 17-point Washington lead to two with less than a minute to

play. But Wall got free for a driving layup to help preserve the victory.

Nik Vucevic led the Magic with 23 points and 12 rebounds.

Orlando finished with 18 turnovers, matching its total from its season opener. The Wizards played short-handed in their loss to Miami on Wednesday, but got instant help inside Thursday thanks to the return of big man Nene. He was back from a one-game suspension for exiting the bench area during a pre-season skirmish between Paul Pierce and Chicago's Joakim Noah.

After logging 30-plus minutes Wednesday, Pierce started a little sluggish in

the first half, going just 2 for 5 from the field.

He recovered to finish with 16 points.

He got support from the rest of the Wizards starters, who all reached double figures by halftime. The Magic sizzled from the field, shooting 57 percent in the opening 24 minutes, but had 11 early turnovers.

Orlando forward Channing Frye, who signed a four-year deal this offseason, made his first appearance in a Magic uniform after missing the entire pre-season with a sprained left medial collateral ligament. His timing was off at times, though, as he managed just two points in 25 minutes.



Washington Wizards forward Drew Gooden (90) makes a shot as he gets past Orlando Magic guard Ben Gordon (7) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014.

(AP Photo/John Raoux)

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Red Sox resign closer Koji Uehara

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox have signed Koji Uehara for two more years, committing \$18 million to the reliever who closed out the 2013 World Series but struggled along with the team this season.

One year to the day after Uehara struck out Matt Carpenter to seal Boston's third title in 10 years, the team gave him a deal that will pay him \$9 million in each of the next two years, when he will be 40 and 41 years old. General manager Ben Cherington said he thought Uehara had less wear and tear on his arm than other pitchers his age. "You're really looking at a guy who has been one of the elite relievers in baseball," Cherington said in a conference call with reporters on Thursday night. "We feel really good about the ninth inning when he's pitching out there with a lead. It was a priority for us to retain him."

Uehara joined the Red

Sox in 2013 and inherited the closer's role midway through the season, helping to stabilize the bullpen that was a key contributor to the title. He finished the regular season with a 1.09 ERA and 21 saves in 24 chances and then recorded seven saves and a 0.66 ERA in the postseason, when he was named the MVP of the AL Championship Series.

Uehara converted his first 15 save opportunities this season to run his streak to 31 in a row — the second-longest in franchise history — and made the All-Star team for the first time. In a span of 21 innings from May 3 to June 16, he did not allow a run.

But after making the All-Star game for the first time, Uehara stumbled in mid-August and allowed 10 runs in his next six outings while blowing three straight save opportunities.

He finished the season with three scoreless outings and a 6-5 record with 26 saves and a 2.52 ERA.

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World Series MVP Bumgarner:

A Pitcher Rises to the Moment, and Jaws Drop

TYLER KEPNER

© 2014 New York Times

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Now he belongs to history, alongside Christy Mathewson and Sandy Koufax, Bob Gibson and Randy Johnson. The pantheon of World

the team's third championship in five seasons. Bumgarner, who beat the Royals in Game 1 and fired a shutout in Game 5, was named the World Series Most Valuable Player. Late Tuesday, he had dismissed

there tomorrow, you'd better bring it," Morse said he told Bumgarner. "He said, 'Just watch me.'" The baseball world watched, all right - in awe. Bumgarner was every bit as stingy as he had promised.

home another way. The task fell to Salvador Perez, the Royals' catcher whose Game 1 homer is the only run Bumgarner has allowed across five career World Series games. Bumgarner got ahead, with one ball and two strikes, then threw another ball. After a foul to the stands, Perez swung hard at a 93-mph fastball.

Third baseman Pablo Sandoval, the most valuable player of the Giants' World Series victory in 2012, camped under the ball, caught it and fell to the ground in front of the Giants' dugout, his wide body spread near the World Series logo, arms raised at his sides in triumph.

Catcher Buster Posey flung his face mask in the air and wrapped Bumgarner in an embrace as the Giants swarmed onto the field. Bumgarner, who had won two games in the Series, was given credit for a five-inning save after initially being awarded the victory.

In a way, Bumgarner's performance was reminiscent of that of another left-hander, Koufax, nearly 50 years earlier. The ace of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Koufax never won three games in a World Series, but he did pitch a shutout on two days' rest in Game 7 to stifle the Minnesota Twins in 1965.

Bumgarner has now worked 36 innings in his three World Series, allowing only the Perez home run last week. His ERA is 0.25, the lowest in World Series history for pitchers with at least 25 innings.

Because of Bumgarner's brilliance, these Royals - a team ranking among the bottom half of the majors

in payroll, a team without a playoff appearance in 29 years - now belong to a special group in baseball history. Think of the Boston Red Sox in 1967, the season known as the Impossible Dream, or the 1991 Atlanta Braves, who went from worst to first.

Those teams, like the Royals, came from obscurity to push destiny as far as they could without winning. Their charmed journey, like that of these Royals, ended in Game 7 of the World Series.

The fans here will always have 1985, their championship season, the last of six October journeys with George Brett, the only player with a Royals cap on his Hall of Fame plaque. They will have warm memories of 2014, too, for the sheer surprise of it all, the near-fulfillment of a painstakingly deliberate plan of their front office, which built the team on a budget, emphasizing speed, defense and pitching.

The Royals had staggered through 18 seasons with just one winning record before 2013, when they fell five games short of a chance at the second wild card. They captured the first wild card this season, swept through three teams in the American League playoffs and took the World Series as far as it could go.

"For them to play the way they did on this stage, in this postseason, is phenomenal," Royals manager Ned Yost said.

"I'm really proud of the way they played."

The Royals have no reason to be ashamed. They were beaten by the best. They were beaten by Bumgarner.



San Francisco Giants Madison Bumgarner pitches during the fifth inning of Game 7 of baseball's World Series against the Kansas City Royals Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo.

(AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

Series pitching greats must welcome a new member. Madison Bumgarner burst into the club with a performance for the ages in Game 7 of the World Series on Wednesday.

Bumgarner, a long-haired, bearded left-hander from Hickory, North Carolina, squeezed the life from the plucky Kansas City Royals with fastballs, cutters and curveballs slung sideways from an arm that had only two days' rest.

Bumgarner, 25, shut out the Royals on two hits for the final five innings, preserving a 3-2 victory for the San Francisco Giants and clinching

any concerns about pitching only three days after throwing nine innings in winning Game 5. He insisted he would be as effective as usual and doubted he would have trouble warming up.

"Something tells me it won't take long to get loose in Game 7 of the World Series," he said.

Michael Morse, the Giants' designated hitter who drove in the go-ahead run in Game 7 with a single in the fourth inning, told the Fox network that he had talked to Bumgarner about possibly pitching on Wednesday.

"If you're going to go out

He gave up a single to his first batter, Omar Infante, and then was perfect until there were two outs in the bottom of the ninth. Alex Gordon lined a single to center and scurried to third on a two-base error by Gregor Blanco.

The third-base coach, Mike Jirschele, could have sent Gordon home, which would have meant the ultimate collision: a World Series decided on a play at the plate.

But Jirschele held Gordon as shortstop Brandon Crawford took the throw from the outfield, and the Royals would have to take their chances on bringing him

FDA approves vaccine for rare bacterial meningitis

KATIE THOMAS

© 2014 New York Times

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that it had approved a vaccine for a dangerous strain of meningitis that caused outbreaks last year at Princeton and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The vaccine, which is made by Pfizer and is to be called Trumenba, is aimed at preventing a variety of bacterial meningitis known as serogroup B. Because the bacteria spread through close physical contact like coughing, kissing and sharing eating

utensils, outbreaks - though rare - have occurred on college campuses and other places where people live in close quarters.

"Pfizer is proud to have developed the first and only F.D.A.-approved vaccine that addresses an existing and urgent need in the efforts to help prevent this uncommon but life-threatening and devastating disease in the U.S.," Emilio A. Emini, senior vice president for vaccine research and development at Pfizer, said in a statement.

Pfizer had been in a race with Swiss drugmaker Novartis to win approval in the

United States of a vaccine for serogroup B meningitis. Novartis' competing vaccine, Bexsero, has been approved in Canada, Europe and Australia, where the strain is more common. Last year, the FDA authorized Novartis to provide 30,000 doses of Bexsero to students and staff at the two colleges as an emergency measure.

Dr. Karen Midthun, director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the FDA, described the consequences of infection with serogroup B meningitis as often "devastating," saying in a confer-

ence call with reporters that the infection kills 10 to 15 percent of those who contract it. An additional 10 to 20 percent suffer permanent complications like brain damage and limb loss, she said. In 2013, a college student had to have both feet amputated because the infection had disrupted circulation in his legs.

Because of the seriousness of the disease, the agency approved Trumenba on an accelerated schedule. The vaccine's approval was based on results showing an immune response to four strains of serogroup

B, which are representative of strains prevalent in the United States. But Pfizer said its effectiveness against other strains in the serogroup had not been confirmed and that the company was conducting additional studies.

Of the approximately 500 cases of meningitis reported in the United States in 2012, about 160 were caused by serogroup B, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Until now, bacterial meningitis vaccines have covered the other four main serogroups - A, C, Y and W. □

Health Watch:

New scrutiny on sweets with ascent of marijuana

JACK HEALY

© 2014 New York Times

DENVER - As Halloween approached, the Denver Police Department and a marijuana-store owner teamed up to film a public service video that could exist only in this weird new world of legalized pot.

Marijuana, they cautioned parents of trick-or-treaters, does not always look like marijuana. More and more these days, it can mimic Sour Patch Kids, Jolly Ranchers and gummy bears, and the police urged parents to double-check their children's Halloween haul for any suspicious-looking candies that might be infused with marijuana.

"There's really no way to tell the difference," Patrick Johnson, the owner of Urban Dispensary, says in the video. He added, "It's best just to toss that stuff into the trash."

To some marijuana advocates, the warning belongs with shadowy urban legends about poisoned chocolates and candy bars spiked with razor blades. There have not been any reported cases of marijuana-laced treats being passed out on Halloween here, and edible marijuana comes in drab packages that look nothing like regular candy. Still,

the Halloween message underscored a growing concern among parents' groups and regulators that the abundant new varieties of legal, edible marijuana just look too much like regular food.

Since recreational marijuana sales began here in January, edible pot has become a top seller at dispensaries across Colorado, a sweet and tasty way for wary first-timers to sample marijuana, or for people to get high without coughing and reeking of smoke. But a spate of accidental ingestions by children and adults, and two deaths tied to edibles this year have prompted widespread calls to clamp down on the edible corner of the marijuana market.

While some companies are making mandarin-flavored sodas and rich dark-chocolate bars infused with the drug, advocates for tighter marijuana regulation say that others are simply coating brightly colored bulk candy and child-friendly breakfast cereals with cannabis oil and selling it at a huge markup. And critics argue that even seasoned marijuana consumers are getting sick or losing control after eating marijuana snacks that proved far more potent than they had realized. A single can-

dy bar or soda could be packed with enough THC - the major psychoactive chemical in marijuana - to serve 10 people.

Under new rules approved by state regulators, some potent candies that once contained 100-milligram

tic and foil sheets similar to those that encase prescription pills.

But some officials think the new rules do not go far enough.

One Colorado company has begun wooing worried parents with \$15 mar-

unmistakably as marijuana, the same way the Hershey's brand is stamped right on a chocolate bar, or how M&M candies and Jelly Belly jelly beans are each airbrushed with an insignia.

But makers of edibles have



Packages of mints and a Watermelon cream flavored elixir, all infused with THC, the psychoactive compound of the cannabis plant, or marijuana, in Denver, Oct. 29, 2014. Concerns about children or even adults unintentionally ingesting THC by way of edible products is growing. (Matthew Staver for The New York Times)

doses of THC are being pared back to 10 milligrams per serving, the amount that has been designated as a discrete dose. And starting next February, more edibles will come in childproof packages and will be wrapped up in plastic

juana-testing kits that use a THC-sensitive solution to quickly determine whether an innocuous-looking cookie or candy is packing a hidden punch.

Some advocates say edibles should have a mark or stamp that identifies them

resisted the idea, saying it would cost tens of thousands of dollars to buy the necessary equipment, raising the price of edibles and potentially driving more customers out of the stores and back onto the black market. □

Growing Market:**Microsoft jumps into the wearable fitness technology****NICK WINGFIELD**

© 2014 New York Times

REDMOND, Wash. - Microsoft has a place on desks, in living rooms and pockets. Now, like many other big technology companies, Microsoft believes it belongs on wrists.

The company has created a wrist-worn fitness device, Microsoft Band, and a related online service, Microsoft Health, that will analyze the data from the band and other devices to help people with their fitness goals.

Microsoft is joining a stampede of companies creating wearable technology products for collecting personal health and exercise data. Technology companies see wearables as a way into the huge wellness business without all the red tape that comes from being a true medical company.

Microsoft's black rubber bracelet resembles other products that have come before it. It contains a display that will show text messages from a cellphone, Facebook alerts and even bar codes that allow people to pay for coffee at a Starbucks from their wrists. Sensors in the device will continuously track heart rate, sleep quality and calories burned.

The band is a departure for Microsoft in many respects, though, brimming with technologies often available only in more expensive products. For instance, the band includes GPS satellite tracking.

The inclusion of GPS means runners who want to track distance only need to wear the band - they do not need to carry their cellphones.

What is more, Microsoft is charging \$199 for the device. Apple's Apple Watch, due out sometime next year, will start at \$349 and require a phone for GPS tracking. Fitbit, a leader in wearable fitness devices, recently announced a watch with GPS called Surge, available early next year, that will cost \$250.

And, in an unusual move for a company often criticized for announcing products months before it actually ships them, Microsoft planned to begin selling the band through its website and retail stores starting Thursday.

"We don't think there's any other device with this level

of the device on Microsoft's campus on Wednesday. There is much Microsoft must still prove for the device to be successful. Its heart rate tracking has to be accurate, something other wrist-based devices have struggled to do. But more important, the oodles of data the device

about wearable technologies, many people seem to lose interest in them once the novelty wears off. In a recent survey, PricewaterhouseCoopers found that about a third of respondents who purchased a wearable device more than a year ago now say they no longer use it or do

a category in which it has no pedigree. "I'm not sure Microsoft has a brand that speaks to fitness people per se," said James McQuivey, an analyst at Forrester Research, a technology research firm. But Microsoft has more credibility in cloud computing and the development



An undated handout photo of the Microsoft Band. Microsoft hopes the Band, which also receives text messages and Facebook alerts, along with a related online service, Microsoft Health, will allow it to climb on the personal health and technology bandwagon.

(Handout via The New York Times)

of functionality," said Yusuf Mehdi, a corporate vice president for devices and studios, in a demonstration

collects will need to create useful health insights. While there has been great curiosity from consumers

so infrequently. Furthermore, Microsoft will have to work hard to demonstrate its relevance in

of sophisticated algorithms that could help consumers figure out how to use their health data. □

Apple Pay rival MCX defends service, exclusivity**MAE ANDERSON**

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A mobile payment service backed by Wal-Mart, Best Buy and other leading retailers is defending its practice of prohibiting its members from accepting alternatives such as Apple Pay.

In a conference call with reporters, Merchant Customer Exchange shopped short of giving a reason for requiring exclusivity. But officials say retailers may choose to leave without penalty, so they could accept those alternatives, which are based on a wireless technology called near-field communication, or NFC.

The rivalry is heating up as more Americans choose to shop and spend time on their mobile devices.

"Merchants make their own choices about their commitment to MCX and make their own choices about other forms of payment," said Dekkers Davidson, the group's CEO.

However, an MCX blog post earlier said that when merchants choose MCX, "they choose to do so exclusively." MCX is testing its CurrenC system and plans to launch it in 2015.

The service has garnered criticism as some of the group's biggest members, including CVS, 7-Eleven, Best Buy and Wal-Mart, are refusing NFC payments even though their stores have the equipment.

MCX was also the target of a hack. In Wednesday's call, MCX said a small number of email addresses were obtained in a breach,

but no other identifying information or any financial information was obtained. The CurrentC app itself was not affected, and the organization has contacted everyone whose email address was affected.

When Apple Pay launched on Oct. 20, retailer resistance had been expected because Apple hasn't offered incentives to install new point-of-sale terminals and train staff on its new mobile payment system. But this week it became clear that many large retailers declined to accept Apple Pay because they were part of MCX, which requires exclusivity.

On Monday, Apple CEO Tim Cook said Apple Pay had over 1 million activations in the first three days after it became available

and is now more widely used than any competing payment system. He called the dispute with retailers a "skirmish."

Davidson said it was "entirely possible" that in the future merchants can accept both MCX and the other forms of mobile payments, although did not give a timeline for when that might occur.

CurrentC lets users pay through a checking account, a store-brand card or a gift card, in addition to regular credit and debit cards. In that sense, it is different than Apple Pay, which lets users pay only through credit and debit cards. Merchants save transaction fees when customers use something other than a credit or debit card. □

Big gain in Visa drives Dow average higher

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Solid quarterly results from a range of big companies helped send the stock market slightly higher Thursday. The standout was Visa, whose 10 percent jump helped tug the Dow Jones industrial average up nearly 200 points.

Visa, the world's largest payment-processing company, turned in quarterly earnings late Wednesday that topped Wall Street's forecasts and announced plans to spend as much as \$5 billion on buying its own shares. Visa's stock gained \$21.99 to \$236.65.

For investors, there was plenty of encouraging news. Before the market opened, the government said that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the three months ending in September, powered by more business investment, sales abroad and the biggest jump in military spending in five years.

"It's another report that indicates the economy can stand on its own two feet," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital Management, referring to the government's estimate of economic growth.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 12.35 points, or 0.6 percent, to close at 1,994.65. The Nasdaq composite rose 16.91 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,566.14.

The Dow Jones industrial average surged 221.11 points, or 1.3 percent, to 17,195.42. Unlike other market measures, the Dow weighs its roster of 30 large corporations by their stock prices rather than by their market size.

and credit cards. The results beat Wall Street's expectations, propelling MasterCard's stock up \$7.14, or 9 percent, to \$83.13. Sam Stovall, chief equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ, saw a number of optimistic signs for the market.

ber through April," Stovall said. Since World War II, the market has climbed 94 percent of the time, for an average gain of 15 percent. Rising corporate earnings have helped turn the market higher in recent weeks. More than half of the S&P



Traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Solid quarterly results from a range of big companies helped send the stock market slightly higher Thursday. The standout was Visa, whose 10 percent jump helped tug the Dow Jones industrial average up nearly 200 points.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

That means companies with the most expensive stocks, such as Visa and Goldman Sachs, have more power to drive the average up or down. The world's second-largest card-payment company, MasterCard, said its third-quarter profit surged as Americans appeared less hesitant to use their debit

Reports that Visa and MasterCard are handling more transactions could mean that Americans will be more likely to open their wallets during the holiday shopping season. What's more, the market is approaching a stretch that nearly always rewards investors.

"We're entering the best six months of the year, Novem-

500's members have released their third-quarter results, and roughly seven out of 10 have beaten Wall Street's targets, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Third-quarter earnings are now on track to increase nearly 7 percent, with health-care companies reporting the largest profit gains.

LinkedIn reports 3Q loss but sales climb

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — LinkedIn Corp. posted a third-quarter loss on Thursday, but its results were better than expected as revenue grew sharply, sending shares of the online professional networking service higher in extended trading.

The company's guidance for the current quarter, however, was below Wall Street's expectations for both profit and revenue. LinkedIn posted a loss of \$4.3 million, or 3 cents per share, in the July-Septem-

ber quarter. That compares with a loss of \$3.4 million, also 3 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier.

Adjusted earnings of 52 cents per share beat Wall Street's estimates by 5 cents.

Revenue rose 45 percent, to \$568.3 million from \$393 million. Analysts expected \$557.6 million, according to Zacks Investment Research.

Unlike Twitter and Facebook, which make most of their money from advertising, LinkedIn relies mainly

on its "talent solutions" business for revenue, charging businesses and head-hunters that use its site to find job candidates.

This segment accounted for 61 percent of the quarter's revenue, while advertising and premium subscription revenue took in 29 and 21 percent each, respectively.

LinkedIn has more than 300 million members worldwide and did not adjust that figure with the latest quarterly report.

Revenue from the U.S. totaled \$343 million, and rep-

resented 60 percent of the quarter's total revenue.

For the current quarter, LinkedIn expects earnings of 49 cents per share on revenue in the range of \$600 million to \$605 million. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected profit of 52 cents per share on revenue of \$612.1 million.

Shares of the Mountain View, California-based company rose \$3.10 to \$206 in extended trading after the results came out. The stock had closed at \$202.90, down 6.4 percent in 2014. □

Volkswagen Q3 profits jump 56% on sales growth

DAVID McHUGH
Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Automaker Volkswagen AG says net profit jumped 56 percent in the third quarter as the company saw more sales growth in China and a slowly recovering European auto market. The company reaffirmed its profit targets for the year but said Thursday that global auto markets would remain dominated by political and economic uncertainty.

Net profit rose to 2.97 billion euros (\$3.8 billion) from 1.91 billion euros in the same quarter a year ago. Sales revenue rose 4.1 percent to 48.9 billion euros (\$62.4 billion).

Volkswagen saw a notable rebound in sales in its home market, Germany, where it sold 11.4 percent more vehicles during the quarter. Over the first nine months of the year, VW has seen stronger sales in Germany and the UK, where the economy is doing better. Spanish sales have also benefited from a government purchase incentive program. Sales in Russia have dropped during the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, while sales also lagged in Argentina and Brazil.

Chief Financial Officer Hans Dieter Poetsch gave a cautious assessment of the future, saying, "We expect that the markets will continue to see mixed trends in the remainder of the year."

"This environment is dominated by political and economic uncertainty and demands maximum flexibility and financial strength on our part," he added.

Analyst Max Warburton at Sanford C. Bernstein said the quarter was better than expected but cautioned that some of the increase in profits appeared to come from gains on foreign currency hedges rather than improved core business. He estimated the non-cash hedging gains at 400-to-500 million euros. □

WhatsApp founders own \$9B in Facebook stock

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

WhatsApp founders Jan Koum and Brian Acton received 116 million shares of Facebook stock currently worth nearly \$9 billion when they sold their unprofitable messaging service to the social networking leader earlier this month.

The breakdown of the big winners in Facebook Inc.'s \$22 billion acquisition emerged this week in

a regulatory filing.

Koum, a Ukraine immigrant who was once living on welfare, reaped the biggest jackpot with 76.4 million Facebook shares now worth \$5.8 billion. That makes him Facebook's fourth largest stockholder behind company CEO Mark Zuckerberg and two mutual funds, Fidelity Management and Vanguard. Acton, who worked with

Koum when they were both Yahoo Inc. engineers, owns 39.7 million Facebook shares worth \$3 billion.

More than 45 other WhatsApp current and former employees also received Facebook stock. Wednesday's filing didn't specify how many shares most of the other employees received.

Besides the Facebook stock, Koum and Acton

also were paid a large chunk of the \$4.6 billion in cash that was included in the WhatsApp acquisition. The amount of cash that the WhatsApp founders received hasn't been disclosed.

Both Koum, 38, and Acton, 42, rank among the 200 richest people in the U.S., according to Forbes' rankings.

Koum remains WhatsApp's

CEO and also sits on Facebook's board of directors. He is being paid an annual salary of just \$1, but will receive an additional 24.9 million shares of Facebook stock that will vest during the next four years. That restricted stock is currently worth about \$1.9 billion.

Although WhatsApp ranks among the world's most popular messaging apps, it hasn't turned a profit yet. □

Samsung vows changes after mobile profit plunges

YOUNKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Samsung Electronics Co. admitted erring in its smartphone strategy and vowed Thursday to overhaul its handset lineup after profit from those devices tumbled last quarter to the lowest in more than three years.

The South Korean company, which climbed from smartphone laggard to top seller in the past three years, had prided itself on responding quickly to market demand and ability to tailor handsets to the needs of users and mobile carriers around the world. But its rapid success with a product category pioneered by rival Apple Inc. is undergoing an equally stunning reversal. Earnings from Samsung's mobile phone business began declining this year, undermined by lukewarm sales of the Galaxy S5 smartphone and the competitive onslaught from cheaper local brands in China and India. Apple also

eroded Samsung's leading market share in developed nations.

In a rare acknowledgement of a misstep, the company's head of investor relations told an earn-

enough," said the executive, Robert Yi.

It plans a significant change in smartphone strategy for next year to seek more "efficiency," implying that the number of

at cheaper prices to save costs.

Unlike Apple's take it or leave it approach, Samsung boasted that it gave more choice to consumers, launching at least two



The logo of Samsung Electronics Co. is seen at a Samsung Electronics shop in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014. Samsung Electronics Co. admitted erring in its smartphone strategy and vowed to overhaul its handset lineup after profit from those devices tumbled last quarter to the lowest in more than three years.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

ings conference call that Samsung had lagged behind changing market conditions. The company's response "was not quick

new handset models might be reduced. That will allow the company to better focus on each product and to purchase components

flagship models per year and making smartphones in a variety of screen sizes and various features.

The drop in earnings from

the mobile business battered the South Korea company's quarterly net profit, which tumbled 49 percent to 4.2 trillion won (\$4 billion). That was the lowest since the first quarter of 2012, but above market expectations. Analysts polled by FactSet had predicted net income of 3.7 trillion won.

Operating income from its mobile business, which previously had contributed more than 60 percent of its entire earnings, fell to 1.75 trillion won (\$1.66 billion) from 6.7 trillion won a year earlier.

Quarterly sales fell 20 percent to 47.4 trillion won while operating income shrank 60 percent to 4.1 trillion won.

Samsung warned earlier this month that its handset profit had declined despite a marginal increase in shipments. Analysts said the Galaxy S5 smartphone launched in April did not sell well while many consumers held off upgrading their phones, instead waiting for new iPhones. □

WhatsApp founders own \$9B in Facebook stock

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vest during the next four years. That restricted stock is currently worth about \$1.9 billion.

Although WhatsApp ranks among the world's most popular messaging apps, it hasn't turned a profit yet. The service lost \$232.5 million on revenue of just \$15 million during the first six months of this year, according to documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. □

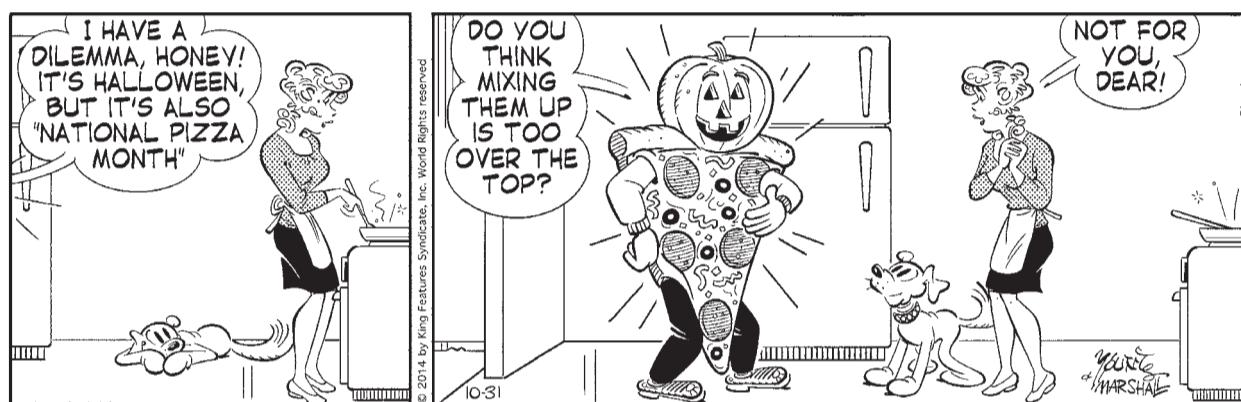
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3	9		1	2
	2	7		
4	9	3	5	6
9		1		4
2	6	4	8	7
	8		1	
8	5		9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

4	2	1	9	8	6	3	5	7
7	6	8	3	5	1	4	9	2
9	5	3	2	7	4	1	6	8
1	8	7	4	2	9	5	3	6
2	3	9	5	6	8	7	1	4
5	4	6	7	1	3	2	8	9
8	9	4	1	3	2	6	7	5
3	7	2	6	9	5	8	4	1
6	1	5	8	4	7	9	2	3

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20				21			22	23				
					24			25				
26	27	28				29						
30			31	32			33		34	35	36	
37		38	39			40	41					
42			43	44			45	46				
			47	48			49	50				
51	52	53				54						
55					56				57	58	59	
60				61	62			63				
64				65			66					
67				68			69					

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/31/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	B	C	S	L	L	A	M	A	R	I	T	E
LE	A	P	A	I	L	E	D	E	R	R	S	S
M	A	K	E	C	A	I	N	E	C	O	O	P
S	T	E	A	M	E	R	A	P	L	E	N	T
K	I	D	A	C	T	E	D	E	D	E	E	T
R	I	L	E	D	O	N	E	G	E	A	R	S
U	S	E	R	P	A	D	M	I	S	F	I	T
B	A	A	P	T	R	O	I	T	I	D	O	O
E	A	S	I	E	R	E	L	M	T	R	E	K
S	C	E	N	T	A	W	L	W	H	E	R	E
F	A	D	E	S		S	E	E				
S	M	A	L	L								
L	A	V	A									
C	I	G	A	R								
O	M	I	T									
W	A	D	S	L								

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10/31/14

- 5 Rule
6 Representative
7 Boast
8 Corn cob
9 Person who's a bundle of energy
10 Math class
11 Oak tree nut
12 Holler
13 Little kids
21 Bury
23 Hairdo
25 Spring month
49 Throws
51 School subject
54 at; bawl out
55 Arouse; stir up
56 Continuance of life, despite difficulties
60 Reiner or Jung
61 Gator's cousin
63 Steer clear of
64 Patella's place
65 Wood often used for boats
66 Socially inept people
67 Stitches
68 Agile; lively
69 Lovers' meeting
- DOWN
- 1 Fraudulent way to make money
2 Overdue
3 Come __; find
4 Give a new moniker to
- 54 Able to pay one's debts
56 Fly high
57 Fluctuate from time to time
58 __ in; inserts
59 In case
62 Title for Pelosi or Boehner: abbr.

Business travelers pick Starbucks on the go

JOE SHARKEY

© 2014 New York Times

I'm happy to be at an age where I am not intimidated by a lot of things that don't have sharp fangs or a firing mechanism. Nevertheless, Starbucks intimidates me, which I note here today because Starbucks, without much patronage from people like me, is the restaurant brand that most often turns up on business travelers' expense accounts.

"Huh?" you might ask, as I did. The distinction seems to be partly attributable to the increasing numbers of travelers in the so-called millennial generation, for whom a Starbucks or a McDonald's offers things that younger business travelers especially seek: convenience, value, familiarity and (not least) the availability of Wi-Fi.

Starbucks was the most often expensed food and beverage brand in the third-quarter 2014 spending report by Certify, a company that manages corporate expense account processing. After Starbucks (average receipt \$10.83) the next four brands on the list are McDonald's (\$7.66), Subway (\$14.99), Panera Bread (\$37.61), and Dunkin' Donuts (\$11.34).

(Boyoun Kim/The New York Times)

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(Boyoun Kim/The New York Times)

tiently behind me stepped up and declaimed a long sentence that included the words "doppio" and "macchiato," and could have been uttered in Serbo-Croatian, for all I knew. (Online, you can even find detailed instructions for ordering at Starbucks.)

The Certify expense account rankings encompass more than a cup of coffee, of course. Starbucks, for example, maintains its top rank because of obvious convenience (there are more than 20,000 of them around the world, 13,500 in the United States), an extensive drinks selection and a growing food

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made a clumsy hand gesture to indicate the approximate size of the coffee I wanted.

"Venti!" she concluded. In the Starbucks vernacular "venti" is rhymed with "plenty," and not "dainty," as it would be in Italy. I gratefully obtained my 20-ouncer. As I fled, a young man waiting impa-



menu (food now makes up more than 20 percent of sales, Starbucks says). Also, explained Robert Neveu, Certify's chief executive, "Wi-Fi is a key driver, along with consistent quality of the food." Here are the rest of the brands among the 15 most-often-expensed restaurants, according to Certify's analysis of millions of individual expense reports from last quarter: HMS Host (\$16.17); Chick Fil-A (\$22.01); Wendy's (\$9.32); Burger King (\$8.85); Applebee's (\$34.93); Chipotle (\$23.90); Jimmy John's (\$39.17); Chili's (\$34.18); Taco Bell (\$8.81); and Arby's (\$10.11).

Expense account processing, which is increasingly being done by cloud-based management companies like Certify, Concur and others, is important because travel and entertainment spending is many companies' second-largest controllable expense, after salaries and benefits, Concur says.

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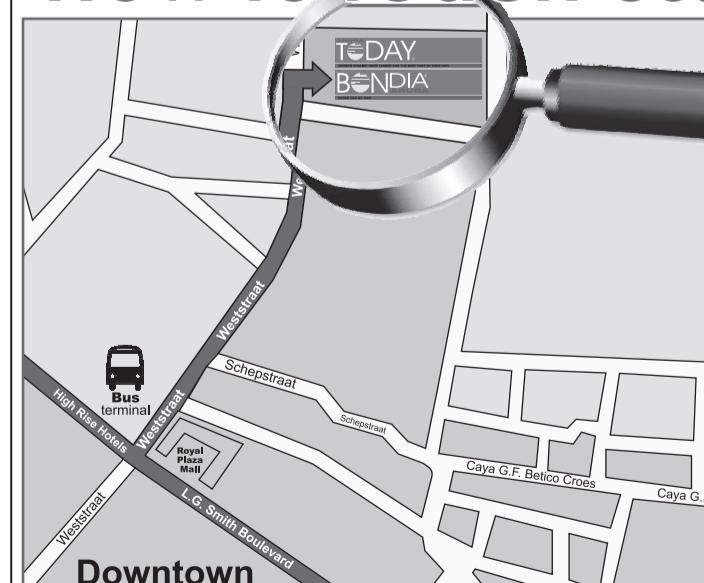
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This photo shows a sculpture unearthed at the Teotihuacan archeological site in Mexico. Mexican archaeologists have concluded a yearlong exploration of a tunnel sealed nearly 2,000 years ago at the ancient city of Teotihuacan and found thousands of relics.

(AP Photo/Proyecto Tlalocan, INAH)

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A yearlong exploration of a tunnel sealed almost 2,000 years ago at the ancient city of Teotihuacan yielded thousands of relics and the discovery of three chambers that could hold more important finds, Mexican archaeologists said Wednesday.

Project leader Sergio Gomez said researchers recently reached the end of the 340-foot (103-meter) tunnel after meticulously working their way down its length, collecting relics from seeds to pottery to animal bones.

A large offering found near the entrance to the chambers, some 59 feet (18 meters) below the Temple of

the Plumed Serpent, suggests they could be the tombs of the city's elite.

"Because this is one of the most sacred places in all Teotihuacan, we believe that it could have been used for the rulers to ... acquire divine endowment allowing them to rule on the surface," Gomez said. Unlike at other pre-Columbian ruins in Mexico, archaeologists have never found any remains believed to belong to Teotihuacan's rulers. Such a discovery could help shine light on the leadership structure of the city, including whether rule was hereditary.

"We have not lost hope of finding that, and if they are there, they must be from someone very, very impor-

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Mexico archaeologists explore Teotihuacan tunnel

tant," Gomez said.

So far Gomez's team has excavated only about 2 feet (60 centimeters) into the chambers. A full exploration will take at least another year.

Initial studies by the National Institute of Anthropology and History show the tunnel functioned until around A.D. 250, when it was closed off.

Teotihuacan long domi-

nated central Mexico and had its apex between 100 B.C. and A.D. 750. It is believed to have been home to more than 100,000 people, but was abandoned before the rise of the Aztecs in the 14th century. Today it is an important archaeological site on the outskirts of Mexico City and a major tourist draw known for its broad avenues and massive pyramids. □

Plans for Antarctic marine reserve falter

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A plan to protect a vast swath of ocean off Antarctica by creating the world's largest marine reserve appeared headed for failure for the fourth time. The countries that make decisions about Antarctic fishing finish a 10-day meeting Friday in Hobart, Australia. Most favor a U.S.-New Zealand proposal to ban most fishing in a sanctuary sprawling across 1.34 million square kilometers (517,000 square miles), or twice the size of Texas, in the Ross Sea.

But all countries must agree, which they have failed to do at three previous meetings.

U.S. delegation leader Evan Bloom said Thursday a consensus once again appeared unlikely.

"It's very disappointing from the U.S. perspective," he said.

He said a "small number of countries" opposed the proposal, but he declined to name them as the closed-door negotiations

were continuing.

Russia was a key holdout in the past among the 24 nations and the European Union that comprise the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. Political tensions between the U.S. and Russia over Ukraine have likely only added a further hurdle this time.

Russia is one of several nations that have fishing interests in Antarctica's waters. The Ross Sea is home to the Antarctic toothfish, a lucrative species that is often marketed in North America as Chilean sea bass.

Andrea Kavanagh, director of the Southern Ocean protection project for The Pew Charitable Trusts, said it might be time to consider new approaches, such as consumers, or nations, refusing to buy fish that has been caught inside the proposed reserve boundaries.

"It's crushing that for the fourth time in three years this hasn't gotten through," she said.

The U.S.-New Zealand proposal had been a decade

in the making and has gotten strong support from U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. The proposal would ban fishing from most of the reserve while allowing for limited scientific catches in some areas.

A second proposal by Australia, France and the European Union to create four smaller reserves off the coast of the East Antarctica also appeared headed for failure.

Mark Epstein, the executive director of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition environmental advocacy group, said that while geopolitical issues were likely a factor this time, it was too soon to give up on the consensus approach.

"Our profound hope is that all the members will come back to the original reasons and meaning for creating the convention," he said.

The convention was established in 1982 with the express objective of conserving Antarctic marine life. The Russian delegation could not be immediately contacted for comment Thursday. □

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Taylor Swift gets a Bronx cheer as NYC Ambassador

BETH J. HARPAZ

AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK (AP) — Welcome to New York, Taylor Swift! The locals are kvetching about you already. Swift's new gig as New York City's global welcome ambassador is getting a Bronx cheer (not that she knows what that is) from locals who questioned her street cred and mocked the videos she made for the city's tourism agency, NYC & Company.

In the videos, she explains how to pronounce Houston Street (HOW-ston, not YOU-ston); defines "bodega" as a corner 24-hour store (though the bodega pictured looks spiffier than what most New Yorkers might think of as a bodega), and declares her love for the perfect latte.

"A latte is not like a slice of pizza, or a bagel," declared a writer in the Village Voice. The Daily News called her appointment "absurd." A Brooklyn city councilman, Jumaane D. Williams, asked in a tweet, "Of all the past/present talent and celebrities that are actually native NY'ers explain again why #TaylorSwift is our ambassador?" Others wondered why Jay Z, Jerry Seinfeld or J Lo weren't tapped.

Even the unflappable anchor for the city's 24-hour cable news station, NY1's Pat Kiernan, expressed outrage, asking whether Swift knows who Dr. Zizmor is. (Zizmor is a dermatologist who's advertised on the subway for years.)

But NYC & Company spokesman Chris Heywood defended Swift as the perfect choice for the city's global ambassador.

"She is the No. 1 global pop star in the world right now," he said in a phone interview Thursday. "She is a new New Yorker. She came to New York last spring. This is a new approach, all about the wonderment and excitement you have when you first come to New York City. To have this enthusiasm from a global superstar, who has given us her image and influence to promote New York City, is a gift. We are so grateful."

Heywood noted that a previous NYC & Company campaign, "Just ask the locals," used New Yorkers like Robert De Niro and Cynthia Nixon.

Swift was born and raised in Pennsylvania, moving to Nashville at age 14 to pursue country music. Last year she bought a \$20 million apartment in Tribeca, a trendy downtown Man-



Taylor Swift performs on ABC's "Good Morning America" in Times Square on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014, in New York.

(Photo by Greg Allen/Invision/AP)

hattan neighborhood. Her new album, "1989," released Monday, is pure pop, marking a break with country.

Her appointment as global tourism ambassador coincided with the release of her single, "Welcome to New York," which is on track to sell 1 million copies in a week. She plans to

donate proceeds from the song to city public schools, and is not being paid for the ambassador stint.

Not everyone's treating Swift the way the Red Sox are greeted by Yankee fans. The New York Post said in an editorial: "The Swift promotions are not aimed at New Yorkers. They're aimed at people

who live elsewhere. These are people who won't sneer when Swift explains what a 'stoop' is or the right pronunciation of Houston Street."

On "The Tonight Show," Jimmy Fallon quipped, "How could we let a woman who's not even from New York welcome people to the city?" adding in a French accent, "The Statue of Liberty said, 'I know, it's just crazy.'"

Pauline Frommer, a born-and-raised New Yorker who wrote "Frommer's EasyGuide to New York City," acknowledged that immigrants make New York great, adding, "Taylor Swift is certainly one of our most talented new arrivals." But she questioned how Swift could represent the city. "Would 'carpetbagging' be the right term here?"

Swift's representative did not respond to a request for comment. But Swift told David Letterman she was chosen to promote the city because she couldn't stop raving about New York as "the greatest place ever. I guess the city picked up on that, they're like, 'She's the most enthusiastic, obnoxious person to ever love New York. She loves it with like 18 exclamation points.'" □

New York City gets its own country music festival

BEN SISARIO

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - Brad Paisley, Dwight Yoakam, Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley will be among the main attractions at FarmBorough, a new country music festival coming to New York City over three days in June.

The festival, planned for June 26 through 28 on Randall's Island, was announced Wednesday by Live Nation Entertainment and New York concert promoter Founders Entertainment, which are presenting it in partnership.

The country genre, led by a new generation of stars like Paisley, Miranda Lambert, Blake Shelton and - until her recent move to

pure pop - Taylor Swift, has been surging in popularity for years; on the radio, it

has supplanted Top 40 as the most popular format. But even while data have



Country singer Dierks Bentley performs at ACM Presents an All-Star Salute to the Troops in Las Vegas. Bentley, Brad Paisley and Luke Bryan will perform in a three-day country music festival in New York next summer. Live Nation Entertainment announced this week, that FarmBorough will take place June 26-28 on Randall's Island. It's being billed as the first-ever country music festival in New York City.

(Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP)

repeatedly shown that New York is a big market for country, the genre's identification with Nashville and with rural life has historically made it a tough sell in the city.

"Everybody has the big myth that New York City for some reason has not been a supportive country music market," said Brian O'Connell, Live Nation's president for country touring, "but it's just not true." O'Connell pointed to recent touring successes in New York, like sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden by Shelton, Bryan and Eric Church. Tours like those have been helped by promotion on WNSH, known as Nash FM (94.7), which in early 2013 be-

came the first country radio station in New York in 17 years, although its ratings have been modest.

Among the other performers expected for FarmBorough are Brandy Clark, Kip Moore, Randy Houser, Ashley Monroe, Maddie & Tae, Wade Bowen and the Cadillac Three. Tickets will be sold only as three-day passes costing \$225, not including fees. They go on sale next Thursday.

Founders Entertainment has had a fast rise in New York as the presenter of the Governors Ball Music Festival, which started on Governors Island in 2011 as a one-day event and has grown into a major music weekend. □

Review:**'Interstellar' a sublime cosmic knockout****JAKE COYLE****AP Film Writer**

Since his breakthrough with the backward-running "Memento," Christopher Nolan has made a plaything of time. In "Interstellar," he slips into its very fabric, shaping its flows and exploding its particles. It's an absurd endeavor. And it's one of the most sublime movies of the decade. As our chief large-canvas illusionist, Nolan's kaleidoscope puzzles have often dazzled more than they

turned-farmer Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) and his two children, the adventuresome 10-year-old Murph (Mackenzie Foy) and the 15-year-old budding farmer Tom (Timothée Chalamet). The rustic homestead, where Cooper and his father-in-law (John Lithgow) drink beer on the porch, recalls the Indiana home of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" — an early hint that "Interstellar" — moving and sentimental — will be more Spielberg

Nolan shoots for the stars, literally and cinematically, when Cooper's curiosity (he and Murph tail a flying drone through the wheat fields) brings him to a secret NASA lair run by a Dr. Brand (Michael Caine). Large-scale dreaming has gone underground. They enlist him to pilot a desperate mission through a wormhole to follow an earlier expedition that may have found planets capable of hosting human life.

Much discussion of grav-



This photo released by Paramount Pictures shows, Matthew McConaughey, left, and Anne Hathaway, in a scene from the film, "Interstellar," from Paramount Pictures and Warner Brothers Pictures, in association with Legendary Pictures.

(AP Photo/Melinda Sue Gordon)

have moved, prizing brilliant, hocus-pocus architecture over emotional interiors. But a celestial warmth shines through "Interstellar," which is, at heart, a father-daughter tale grandly spun across a cosmic tapestry.

There is turbulence along the way. "Interstellar" is overly explanatory about its physics, its dialogue can be clunky and you may want to send composer Hans Zimmer's relentless organ into deep space. But if you take these for blips rather than black holes, the majesty of "Interstellar" is something to behold.

The film opens in the near future where a new kind of Dust Bowl, one called "the blight," brings crop-killing storms of dust upon the Midwest farm of engineer-

(who was once attached to direct) than Kubrick. In the imperiled climate, space exploration is viewed as part of the "excess" of the 20th century. Textbooks now read that the moon landings were faked. But Cooper, a former NASA pilot, still believes in science's capacity for greatness. He seethes: "We used to look up in the sky and wonder about our place in the stars. Now we just look down and wonder about our place in the dirt."

The spirit of wonderment, too, has sometimes lacked in our movies. Nolan — who shot in both 35mm and 70mm and prefers his films massive on Imax, but not, thank our stars, in 3-D — remains one of the few purveyors of DeMille-sized big-screen grandeur.

ity and relativity follows, as Nolan (who co-wrote the script with his brother Jonathan and consulted with theoretical physicist Kip Thorne) tries valiantly to place his quasi-plausible sci-fi tale within the realm of mathematics and science. "Interstellar" is a trip, for sure, but it's not a supernatural one. There will be no aliens poking forth from bellies or monument-blasting battles with extraterrestrials; it's just about us humans. The journey means Cooper will, under the best of circumstances, be gone for years. The parting from Murph, who resents the abandonment, is wrenching. He's a dutiful, driven father stepping out to work, only in another galaxy. All they can send him are video messages.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS**Suge Knight to spend weekend in jail**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Rap music figure Marion "Suge" Knight had a Las Vegas traffic warrant reduced to a parking ticket on Thursday, but was returned in custody to the Clark County jail to await a Monday extradition hearing in a California robbery case. Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Joseph Sciscento quickly arraigned Knight in a glass-walled court basement holding facility, and gave the founder of Death Row Records 90 days to pay a \$190 fine on what had been a June 2013 suspended license charge. Knight's attorney, Richard Schonfeld, said later he plans to ask another Las Vegas judge at an extradition hearing Monday to allow Knight to post bail and make his way to the Los Angeles area on his own to answer the robbery complaint in Beverly Hills. Knight, 49, was arrested Wednesday a few blocks east of the Las Vegas Strip, and comedian Katt Williams was arrested at a Los Angeles-area courthouse, in a felony robbery case stemming from a celebrity photographer's complaint that Knight and Williams stole her camera Sept. 5 in Beverly Hills. Knight, who has a prior conviction for assault with a deadly weapon, could face up to 30 years in prison if he's convicted of a new felony. Williams could face up to seven years in prison. Williams, 43, has starred in several comedy specials and appeared in films such as "First Sunday" and "Friday After Next." Knight was shot and wounded in a West Hollywood, California, nightclub about a week and a half before the incident with the photographer. Schonfeld and attorney David Chesnoff represented Knight in several previous cases in Las Vegas.

Wanted Polanski questioned in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Prosecutors in Poland questioned filmmaker Roman Polanski on Thursday at the request of U.S. prosecutors who are seeking his arrest on charges from 1977 of having sex with a minor. Boguslawa Marcinkowska, a spokeswoman for prosecutors in Krakow, said the filmmaker remained free but available for further interrogations. Polanski was questioned in the southern city of Krakow, where he owns an apartment. Mateusz Martyniuk, a spokesman for the prosecutor general's office, said the U.S. requested Polanski's arrest and Polish prosecutors were expecting an extradition request. Earlier, Deputy Foreign Minister Rafal Trzaskowski hinted that Poland would not be willing to act on a U.S. extradition request, saying that in Poland his charges have expired under the statute of limitations. Polanski has Polish and French passports. Polanski later said on TVN24 that he believes that his Polish lawyers will have the case closed "once and for all." He said he will be in Poland in February and March to work on a new movie. He also wants to show the country to his two children, who have not been to Poland since they were young children and "as a result don't know my motherland." Polanski's movements are restricted by an Interpol warrant in effect in 188 countries, but he travels freely between Switzerland, France and Poland. Polanski, who has Jewish ancestry, attended the opening in Warsaw on Tuesday of a museum of the 1,000-year history of Jewish life in Poland. He later traveled to Krakow, where he grew up. The 81-year-old director of movies like "Chinatown" and the Oscar-winning "The Pianist" lives in Paris, where — as French citizen — he has immunity from U.S. justice, from which he fled in 1978. In 2010, he was freed from Swiss house arrest after that government refused to extradite him.

Ideology and Investment



PAUL KRUGMAN

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America used to be a country that built for the future. Sometimes the government built directly: Public projects, from the Erie Canal to the Interstate Highway System, provided the backbone for economic growth. Sometimes it provided incentives to the private sector, like land grants to spur railroad construction. Either way, there was broad support for spending that would make us richer.

But nowadays we simply won't invest, even when the need is obvious and the timing couldn't be better. And don't tell me that the problem is "political dysfunction" or some other weasel phrase that diffuses the blame. Our inability to invest doesn't reflect something wrong with "Washington"; it reflects the destructive ideology that has taken over the Republican Party.

Some background: More than seven years have passed since the housing bubble burst, and ever since, America has been awash in savings - or more accurately, desired savings - with nowhere to go. Borrowing to buy homes has recovered a bit, but remains low. Corporations are earning huge profits, but are reluctant to invest in the face of weak consumer demand, so they're accumulating cash or buying back their own stock. Banks are holding almost \$2.7 trillion in excess reserves - funds they could lend out, but choose instead to leave idle.

And the mismatch between desired saving and the willingness to invest has kept the economy depressed. Remember, your spending is my income and my spending is your income, so if everyone tries to spend less at the same time, everyone's income falls.

There's an obvious policy response to this situation: public investment. We have huge infrastructure needs, especially in water and transportation, and the federal government can borrow incredibly cheaply - in fact, interest rates on inflation-protected bonds have been negative much of the time (they're currently just 0.4 percent). So borrowing to build roads, repair sewers and more seems like a no-brainer. But what has actually happened is the reverse. After briefly rising after the Obama

stimulus went into effect, public construction spending has plunged. Why?

In a direct sense, much of the fall in public investment reflects the fiscal troubles of state and local governments, which account for the great bulk of public investment.

These governments generally must, by law, balance their budgets, but they saw revenues plunge and some expenses rise in a depressed economy. So they delayed or canceled a lot of construction to save cash. Yet this didn't have to happen. The federal government could easily have provided aid to the states to help them spend - in fact, the stimulus bill included such aid, which was one main reason public investment briefly increased. But once the GOP took control of the House, any chance of more money for infrastructure vanished. Once in a while Republicans would talk about wanting to spend more, but they blocked every Obama administration initiative.

And it's all about ideology, an overwhelming hostility to government spending of any kind. This hostility began as an attack on social programs, especially those that aid the poor, but over time it has broadened into opposition to any kind of spending, no matter how necessary and no matter what the state of the economy. You can get a sense of this ideology at work in some of the documents produced by House Republicans under the leadership of Paul Ryan, the chairman of the Budget Committee. For example, a 2011 manifesto titled "Spend Less, Owe Less, Grow the Economy" called for sharp spending cuts even in the face of high unemployment, and dismissed as "Keynesian" the notion that "decreasing government outlays for infrastructure lessens government investment." (I thought that was just arithmetic, but what do I know?) Or take a Wall Street Journal editorial from the same year titled "The Great Misallocators," asserting that any money the government spends diverts resources away from the private sector, which would always make better use of those resources.

Never mind that the economic models underlying such assertions have failed dramatically in practice, that the people who say such things have been predicting runaway inflation and soaring interest rates year after year and keep being wrong; these aren't the kind of people who reconsider their views in the light of evidence. Never mind the obvious point that the private sector doesn't and won't supply most kinds of infrastructure, from local roads to sewer systems; such distinctions have been lost amid the chants of private sector good, government bad.

And the result, as I said, is that America has turned its back on its own history. We need public investment; at a time of very low interest rates, we could easily afford it. But build we won't. □



Midterms 2014: The Disgust Election



TIMOTHY EGAN

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Justice Anthony Kennedy doesn't strike me as the kind of guy I'd want to share a beer and a brat with, or be stuck next to on a long flight. But I would like for the most influential swing voter on the Supreme Court to step away from his legal aerie, and wade through some of the muck that he and four fellow justices have given us with the 2014 campaign. How did we lose our democracy? Slowly at first, and then all at once. This fall, voters are more disgusted, more bored and more cynical about the midterm elections than at any time in at least two decades.

It's so bad that Sen. Mitch McConnell is paying people to show up at his rallies and pretend to be excited. There should be plenty of applicants; just 29 percent of the electorate said they were "enthusiastic" about voting this year.

What's not to hate? Start with the politicians on the ballot: a surfeit of dim-bulb partisans pledged to further gridlock. (See McConnell, future Senate majority leader.) But, beyond disdain for this singular crop of do-nothings, the revulsion is generated by a sense that average people have lost control of one of the last things that citizens should be able to control - the election itself.

You can trace the Great Breach to Kennedy's words in the 2010 Citizens United case, which gave wealthy, secret donors unlimited power to manipulate American elections. The decision legalized

large-scale bribery - OK, influence buying - and ensured that we would never know exactly who was purchasing certain politicians.

Kennedy famously predicted the opposite. He wrote that "independent expenditures, including those made by corporations, do not give rise to corruption or the appearance of corruption." That's the money quote - one of the great wish-projections in court history. But Kennedy also envisioned a new day, whereby there would be real-time disclosure of the big financial forces he unleashed across the land.

In his make-believe, post-Citizens United world, voters "can see whether elected officials are 'in the pocket' of so-called monied interests." Ah, transparency.

Again, just the opposite has happened. The big money headed for the shadows. As my colleague Nicholas Confessore documented this month, more than half the ads aired by outside groups during this campaign have come from secret donors. Oligarchs hiding behind front groups - Citizens for Fluffy Pillows - are pulling the levers of the 2014 campaign.

You can argue that money doesn't always buy results, and cite the extraordinary failure of Karl Rove to get any return on the investor millions he threw to the wind in 2012. But you can't argue with the corrosive and dispiriting effect, on the rest of us, of campaigns controlled by the rich, the secret, the few.

This year, the Koch brothers and their extensions have operations in at least 35 states, and will spend somewhere north of \$120 million to ensure a Congress that will do their bidding. Spending by outside groups has gone to \$1 billion in 2012 from \$52 million in 2000. And it gets worse. At the same time that this court has handed over elections to people who already have enormous power, they've given approval to efforts to keep the powerless from voting. In Texas, Republicans

have passed a selective voter ID bill that could keep upward of 600,000 citizens - students, Native Americans in federally recognized tribes, the elderly - from having a say in this election.

What's the big deal? Well, you can vote in Texas with a concealed handgun ID, but not one from a four-year college. The new voter suppression measure, allowed to go ahead in an unsigned order by the court last Saturday, "is a purposefully discriminating law," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote in dissent, "one that likely imposes an unconstitutional poll tax and risks denying the right to vote to hundreds of thousands of eligible voters."

With the 2010 case, the court handed control of elections over to dark money interests who answer to nobody. And in the Texas case, the court has ensured that it will be more difficult for voters without money or influence to use the one tool they have.

This year's campaign has been called the Seinfeld Election, but control of Congress is never about nothing. There is likely to be a Supreme Court justice appointment in the near future. The fate of a minimum wage hike, health care, student loans, taking action on climate change, or going to war - all could hinge on whether a select group of outsiders can buy the Congress they want.

Still, for all the wrongheaded decisions made by this court, individual voters can rage against the machine and make a difference - and will, in small states in particular.

I yield to the freewheeling Nuns on the Bus, particularly Sister Simone Campbell. "In the face of such an avalanche of money, the temptation for some is to become cynical and disengage from politics in general, and voting in particular," she wrote in The Charlotte Observer.

But let's not fool ourselves. We Americans have long boasted of having free and fair elections. Thanks to this Supreme Court, they are neither. □

Skin Deep: Tinder Taps an Age-Old Truth

NICK BILTON

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WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif.

- As I sat in the lobby of a drab office building here, waiting to be led up to the penthouse loft of Tinder, the fast-growing dating app, I noticed that every few minutes young women would walk into the foyer, dressed in flip-flops, T-shirts and tattered jeans shorts, and then go through a radical transformation.

Swapping out their rubber sandals for stiletto heels, they smeared on goblets of lip gloss and flung on leather jackets. After a 30-second wardrobe change, they were ready for their appointments at a modeling agency on the ground floor. Same people: two very different personas.

A short elevator ride later, as I sat in on a meeting with a group of Tinder executives, it became clear that the quick-change act I had just witnessed downstairs, though unrelated to Tinder, still had a lot to do with what was going on upstairs. What someone wears, along with other visual clues they give off in photographs, can tell a thousand different things about them.

And Tinder believes that these clues are the key to online dating.

In the two years since Tinder was released, the smartphone app has exploded, processing more than 1 billion swipes left and right each day (right means you "like" someone, left means you don't) and matching more than 12 million people in that same time, the company said. Tinder wouldn't share the exact number of people on the service, saying only that it was on a par with other social networks at two years in operation. But a person with knowledge of the situation told me that it is fast approaching 50 million active users.

Tinder's engagement is staggering. The company said that, on average, people log into the app 11 times a day. Women spend as much as 8.5 minutes swiping left and right during

a single session; men spend 7.2 minutes. All of this can add up to 90 minutes each day.

While conventional online dating sites have been around longer, they haven't come close to the popularity of Tinder. Scientists and relationship specialists who study online dating suggest it isn't what Tinder is doing cor-

Before you throw your hands in the air and proclaim that such a statement is indicative of today's degenerating society, what's happening on Tinder is actually a lot more complicated.

"When was the last time you walked into a bar and someone said, 'Excuse me, can you fill out this form and we'll match you up

der say there is something entirely different going on. "Research shows when people are evaluating photos of others, they are trying to access compatibility on not just a physical level, but a social level," said Jessica Carbino, Tinder's in-house dating and relationship expert. "They are trying to understand, 'Do I have things in com-

said, tell us a lot about their social circle, if they like to party and their level of confidence.

Tinder also conducted studies to try to glean more insight into user's behaviors. In one survey, women were asked to swipe through a series of photos of handsome male models. In almost every instance, the women swiped to the



Founders of Tinder Jonathan Badeen, left, and Sean Rad at their offices in West Hollywood, Calif. The popularity of the fast-growing dating app may be due to something research confirms and which Tinder takes full advantage of: looks are all that matter, at least initially.

(Kendrick Brinson/The New York Times)

rectly, but rather what earlier dating sites have gotten wrong.

Services like eHarmony, OKCupid and Match.com have proclaimed that their proprietary algorithms could calculate true love, or that math equations could somehow pick two strangers to live happily ever after.

That appears to be more fiction than fact.

All that really matters, according to scientific researchers I spoke with from Northwestern University and Illinois State University, at least in the beginning of a relationship, is how someone looks. (Of course, these companies disagree.)

"With people here?" said Sean Rad, co-founder and chief executive of Tinder, referring to the questionnaires on most dating sites. "That's not how we think about meeting new people in real life."

On Tinder, there are no questionnaires to fill out. No discussion of your favorite hiking trail, star sign or sexual proclivities. You simply log in through Facebook, pick a few photos that best describe "you" and start swiping.

It may seem that what happens next is predictable (the best-looking people draw the most likes, the rest are quickly dismissed), but relationship experts for Tin-

mon with this person?"

Carbino, who recently concluded a Ph.D. candidacy at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she focused her research on dating, romantic relationships and what men and women are drawn to when evaluating a partner,

joined Tinder this summer to help the company understand what kind of visual cues could cause a person to swipe "like" or "nope." She discovered that Tinder users decoded an array of subtle and not-so-subtle traits before deciding which way to swipe. For example, the style of clothing, the pucker of the lips and even the posture, Carbino

left, dismissing the men with chiseled faces. When asked why, the women said that the men looked too full of themselves or unkind.

"Men with softer jaw lines indicate that they have more compassion," Carbino said.

Men also judge attractiveness on factors beyond just anatomy, though in general, men are nearly three times as likely to swipe "like" (in 46 percent of cases) than women (14 percent).

"There is this idea that attraction stems from a very superficial outlook on people, which is false," Rad said. "Everyone is able to pick up thousands of signals in these photos. □